

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/2/2018 5:12:42 PM
To: Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Daniell, Kelsi [daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]; Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Block, Molly [block.molly@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James [hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]
Subject: Can EPA re-tweet this - yes they can

https://twitter.com/KMOXKilleen/status/959094339581472769/photo/1?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw&ref_url=http%3A%2F%2Fstlouis.cbslocal.com%2F2018%2F02%2F01%2Fepa-to-issue-decision-on-west-lake-landfill%2F

Jahan Wilcox

EPA

Strategic Communications Advisor

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Work Email: wilcox.jahan@epa.gov

Message

From: Block, Molly [block.molly@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/2/2018 2:13:26 PM
To: Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James [hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Daniell, Kelsi [daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]; Beach, Christopher [beach.christopher@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Link to NYTimes The Daily

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

From: Abboud, Michael
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2018 9:13 AM
To: Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>; Daniell, Kelsi <daniell.kelsi@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Beach, Christopher <beach.christopher@epa.gov>
Subject: Link to NYTimes The Daily

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/02/podcasts/the-daily/scott-pruitt-epa.html>

Message

From: Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/5/2018 7:41:17 PM
To: Leopold, Matt [Leopold.Matt@epa.gov]
CC: Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]
Subject: Fwd: Can someone run the tweet by ethics?

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Lincoln Ferguson
Senior Advisor to the Administrator

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Abboud, Michael" <abboud.michael@epa.gov>
Date: February 2, 2018 at 7:53:57 AM PST
To: "Ferguson, Lincoln" <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>
Cc: "Hewitt, James" <hewitt.james@epa.gov>, "Daniell, Kelsi" <daniell.kelsi@epa.gov>, "Block, Molly" <block.molly@epa.gov>, "Konkus, John" <konkus.john@epa.gov>, "Bowman, Liz" <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Can someone run the tweet by ethics?

Will do.

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 2, 2018, at 10:53 AM, Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov> wrote:

Want to be sure we're clear with the hat.

<image1.png>

Lincoln Ferguson
Senior Advisor to the Administrator

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Message

From: Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/2/2018 6:11:13 PM
To: Daniell, Kelsi [daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
CC: Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]; Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Hewitt, James [hewitt.james@epa.gov]; Block, Molly [block.molly@epa.gov]; Beach, Christopher [beach.christopher@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: APPROVAL: EPA's Weekly Report For 02/02/18 - Preview

Just spoke with Liz. Not adding this morning's radio hit to either this or release. Call if you have questions on that.
Thanks!

From: Daniell, Kelsi
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2018 1:01 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Cc: Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov>; Konkus, John <konkus.john@epa.gov>; Ferguson, Lincoln <ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov>; Abboud, Michael <abboud.michael@epa.gov>; Hewitt, James <hewitt.james@epa.gov>; Block, Molly <block.molly@epa.gov>; Beach, Christopher <beach.christopher@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: APPROVAL: EPA's Weekly Report For 02/02/18 - Preview

Did we want to add the radio from this morning? No worries if not. We can add it to the bottom of the Florida release

Also, he met with more than Florida Farm Bureau so I think we say something like "to meeting with rural Floridians" OR "Florida farmers, ratepayers, and manufacturers"

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 2, 2018, at 12:49 PM, Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov> wrote:

From: EPA Press Office [mailto:press=epa.gov@cmail20.com] **On Behalf Of** EPA Press Office
Sent: Friday, February 2, 2018 12:48 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: EPA's Weekly Report For 02/02/18 - Preview

No images? [Click here](#)



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
NEWS RELEASE
WWW.EPA.GOV/NEWSROOM

EPA'S WEEKLY REPORT

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

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Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Message

From: Carey, Curtis [Carey.Curtis@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/2/2018 1:22:02 AM
To: Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Shimmin, Kaitlyn [shimmin.kaitlyn@epa.gov]; Cory, Preston (Katherine) [Cory.Preston@epa.gov]; Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Lyons, Troy [lyons.troy@epa.gov]; Gulliford, Jim [gulliford.jim@epa.gov]; Kelly, Albert [kelly.albert@epa.gov]; Peterson, Mary [Peterson.Mary@epa.gov]
CC: Brees, Angela [Brees.Angela@epa.gov]; Bryan, David [Bryan.David@epa.gov]; Flournoy, Karen [Flournoy.Karen@epa.gov]; Singletary, DeAndre [Singletary.DeAndre@epa.gov]; Murdie, Ashley [murdie.ashley@epa.gov]; Washburn, Ben [washburn.ben@epa.gov]
Subject: Update #6 7:00 p.m.: WLL Media and Social Media Monitoring Update
Attachments: Update #6 final 1900 CST media and social media.pdf

Here is the final update of the day. A few articles have been updated this evening and there is a new Post-Dispatch editorial.

UPDATE #6 at 7:00 p.m. CST

Top Changes:

New or significantly updated items are highlighted in green

- New Leadership comments
- New statement from Cotter
- STL Post-Dispatch publishes editorial
- STL Post-Dispatch story by Bryce Gray has updates
- AP story has updates

Curtis D. Carey, Ph.D.
Public Affairs Director
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 7 (Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa & Nine Tribes)
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epa.gov | epa.gov/region7 | <http://blog.epa.gov/bigbluethread>



West Lake Landfill Decision Announcement
MEDIA & SOCIAL MEDIA MONITORING UPDATE
02/01/2018

What Reporters are Writing/Saying:
(see full articles at the end of the document)

Bryce Gray, PD:

- The proposed remedy, called "Excavation Plus," is expected to take five years to implement. The measure will remove the majority of radioactive contamination, while installing an engineered cover system for long-term protection.
- The proposal announced Thursday falls in between those wishes of the most vocal community members and industrial interests.

- With Thursday's newly proposed remedy, the agency has now taken a major step — perhaps the biggest step — toward producing another record of decision for the site. The proposal will now be subject to a period of public comment before any decision is finalized.

Brady Dennis, Washington Post:

- There have been ongoing concerns about the fire reaching the radioactive waste, though the companies there have taken numerous steps to prevent that.
- Over the years, local residents have complained of quality-of-life and health problems, from a periodic stench in the air to anecdotal tales of cancers, autoimmune disorders and miscarriages in adjacent neighborhoods. At the same time, numerous air, water and soil tests from the EPA and other government agencies have shown no link to such conditions.
- Thursday's announcement also was intended to be Exhibit A in demonstrating Pruitt's commitment to revitalizing the agency's Superfund program, which includes the nation's most polluted sites, by streamlining and accelerating cleanups. Few sites have easy answers, but nearly all draw intense emotions, as seen in the fast reaction of some residents in the West Lake area.

Eli Chen & Kae M. Petrin

- Just Moms STL is hailing the partial removal proposal as a victory. More to come.
- Residents who live near the site praised the proposal. They said EPA officials informed them that the plan would remove much of the waste, which is about 600 feet from an underground smoking fire at the Bridgeton Landfill.
- "They're going to remove 70 percent of the waste," said Dawn Chapman, who leads the Just Moms nonprofit group. "The administrator is calling it 'excavation plus.'"
- The proposal should take five years and \$236 million to implement. EPA officials said that the remedy would decrease odors, limit the chance of a new underground smoldering fire, and protect workers on the site.
- The public will be allowed to comment on the agency's proposals before administrators make a final decision. Landfill owner Republic Services noted that excavation could take years to begin.

SOCIAL MEDIA LISTENING

Karen Nickel and Dawn Chapman Facebook Live Video

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/508327822519437/>



(8 minutes) "We are getting 70% excavation 'plus'" "we're happy we're hopeful." "There's a commitment. We have a direction now. Please remember it's excavation plus." "Be proud of your Mayor Terry Briggs. He rocked the show today. He asked the hard questions."

"These are tears of joy and happiness"

<https://www.facebook.com/karen.nickel.52/videos/o.508327822519437/10215694121774516/?type=2&theater>

84 Comments: (some examples)

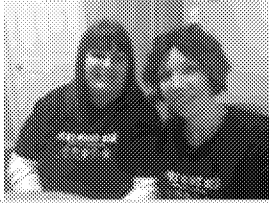
Rhonda Rose Marsala · 6:22 Dawn and Karen...you're absolutely correct, this is an ENORMOUS VICTORY!!!! Take a bow ladies, all your hard work has paid off, so proud of you...big hugs my friends!! 70% is 70% more than zero...HUGE WIN!!!!!!!

Libbe HaLevy · 3:21 I am so proud of what you have accomplished on behalf of your community and the planet.

Robbin Ellison Dailey · 2:16 So much for Landfill Owner's Nonsensical statement of a "Managed Site!" Apparently their "management" isn't sufficient or adequate enough for Federal EPA!!!

Kevin Killeen, KMOX CBS Radio St. Louis

Twitter post: Kevin Killeen @KMOXKilleen: Karen Nickel and Dawn Chapman of Just Moms happy with EPA announcement on West Lake Landfill. (photo of Karen and Dawn posted by Kevin)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: 02/01/2018



CONTACTS:
Just Moms STL
Karen Nickel
(314) 229-4896
Dawn Chapman
(314) 566-9762
westlakemoms@gmail.com

**UPDATE: EPA ADMINISTRATOR SCOTT PRUITT ANNOUNCES THE PROPOSED FINAL
REMEDY FOR WEST LAKE LANDFILL**

Early this morning, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt announced the proposed remedy to partially remove the Manhattan Project radioactive waste at West Lake Landfill. The community has been anticipating the announcement since early December when the landfill was listed as one of Superfund's Top Sites to receive intense and immediate action. The landfill has been classified a Superfund Site since 1990.

"We [the community] have been waiting over a quarter of a century for a safe and permanent solution to the radioactive waste at the landfill," says Co-founder Karen Nickel. "A remedy at this site was long overdue. However, there is no mention of relocation of vulnerable families with children. One thing is certain, relocation options must happen before the first shovel of dirt is moved."

Originally, EPA proposed only a 5% partial removal. Since the meeting this morning, we have learned that a partial removal consists of 70+%. This means the amount of radioactive waste being removed is significantly higher than previously considered and can potentially increase (never decrease) as the process and public comment period proceeds.

"We consider 70+% removal of the waste a victory and step in the right direction. Our goals, along with relocating the residents, have always been getting the radioactive waste out of the Missouri River floodplain and away from the threat of the underground fire," says Co-founder Dawn Chapman.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: 02/01/2018

As with all proposed remedies, there will be a public comment period. During this time, we will have the opportunity to provide our questions, concerns, and wishes to the EPA regarding the proposed remedy. We encourage everyone to participate as this is the only opportunity the public has to ensure our voices are heard.

Just Moms STL, alongside the community and its supporters, will continue to be a part of the process and will remain vigilant throughout implementation and cleanup.

###

Eli Chen St Louis Public Radio

Just Moms STL is hailing the partial removal proposal as a victory. More to come. <https://twitter.com/StoriesByEli>

Administrator Pruitt's Twitter: I've proposed a remedy for the West Lake Superfund site that will excavate and remove within 5 yrs all radioactive material that poses a risk to public health. I promised the people of Missouri an answer & today I'm making good on that commitment. → <https://goo.gl/Zbgz7B>

Rep. William Lacy Clay's Facebook:

As I have said from the beginning, this nuclear waste, which dates back to the #ManhattanProject is a 75-yr old problem. The United States government created this waste and we have a responsibility to clean it up.
#westlakelandfill @Justmomsstl

Lacy Clay MO1st @LacyClayMO1

As the public comment period goes forward towards a final record of decision, we need to ask hard questions, remain vigilant and keep pushing for #environmentaljustice at #westlakelandfill

I want to thank Administrator @EPAScottPruitt for his leadership in helping reach this decision. #westlakelandfill @Justmomsstl

Lacy Clay MO1stVerified account @LacyClayMO1

As the first Member of Congress to call for the removal of nuclear waste from #westlakelandfill, today's announcement by the @EPA of a cleanup is a huge victory for our long-suffering community and it is a major step towards #environmentaljustice @Justmomsstl

WHAT LEADERS ARE SAYING

Scott Pruitt:

- "The people of the St. Louis region deserve clarity and answers with respect to the remediation of the West Lake Landfill," Scott Pruitt, EPA administrator, said. "I promised them an answer, and today I am making good on that commitment."
- "The consideration here was timing, it was certainty, it was respect to human health that was being protected," said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt – Post Dispatch
- "A cap is not sufficient to protect the health of the citizens in the area," said Pruitt.
- "I do want to emphasize this is a proposal," Pruitt said. "We may learn things throughout this decision that inform this process." – Post Dispatch
- "This decision demonstrates my vision for the Superfund program. Through leadership and responsiveness to communities, we will make decisions that protect public health, comply with the law, and hold potentially responsible parties accountable," Pruitt said in a statement. The Hill
- Pruitt has publicly criticized previous presidential administrations for failing to decide on a remedy for West Lake Landfill. He's repeatedly named the landfill in interviews with national news outlets as an example of governmental delay and ineptitude. – St Louis Public Radio
- "It's taken 28 years just to make a decision — not clean it up, not remediate it, just decide how we're going to do it," Pruitt said about West Lake Landfill in a CBS News interview that aired Jan. 18. "That's unacceptable." – cited by St Louis Public Radio
- In Thursday's announcement, Pruitt said his response to West Lake is representative of his approach to the entire Superfund program. -- St Louis Public Radio

Senator Roy Blunt

Blunt Statement on Environmental Protection Agency's West Lake Announcement

"West Lake families have been tireless advocates for the health and safety of their children and community. They should not have had to wait 27 years for a plan to clean up the site, especially when they were promised action under the previous administration. I thank Administrator (Scott) Pruitt for making West Lake a priority and moving quickly to offer a plan to clean up the site. Families living near West Lake will now have an opportunity to review the proposal and make their voices heard. I will continue listening to them and working with the administration on a path forward that gives families the peace of mind they deserve."

Senator Claire McCaskill

"After years of pushing EPA, I'm pleased this is finally moving in the right direction."

St. Louis County Executive, Steve Stenger • "I am disappointed in the EPA's decision. I, like many residents, believe the EPA should have elected to excavate and remove all hazardous material from the West Lake Landfill. St. Louis County will continue to monitor water and air quality at the site. We will also do everything in our power to help address any serious long-term health and safety concerns of residents near the landfill."

Rep. Ann Wagner

Wagner Statement on the EPA's West Lake Proposal

"After years of broken promises and inaction by previous administrations, Administrator Pruitt and the EPA are proposing a viable, permanent solution for cleaning up the West Lake Landfill. I commend them for delivering on this promise to our community and prioritizing Missourians who have lived in fear and uncertainty for too long. The general public will now have the opportunity to review this proposal and share their thoughts and concerns.

"Today's much anticipated announcement is a testament to the local leaders I have worked with since my first year in Congress to ensure the safety and well-being of the families surrounding the West Lake Landfill. Their tireless efforts have made this a top priority, and it is an honor to represent such a strong and committed community in Washington, D.C."

Rep. William Lacy Clay

"West Lake landfill cleanup is a huge victory for our long-suffering community and a major step towards environmental justice."

"As the first Member of Congress to call for the removal of nuclear waste from West Lake landfill, today's announcement by the EPA of a cleanup is a huge victory for our long-suffering community and it is a major step towards long-delayed environmental justice.

As I have said from the beginning, this nuclear waste, which dates back to the Manhattan Project, is a 75-year old problem. The United States government created this waste and we have a responsibility to clean it up.

I want to thank EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt for his leadership in helping reach this decision. And I especially want to salute the courage and sacrifice of Just Moms STL, the Missouri Coalition for the Environment and the many citizen environmental advocates whose dogged determination and faith have led us to this landmark decision that will keep our community safe."

Bridgeton Mayor Briggs

No public comments

St. Louis Mayor Krewson

St. Louis Mayor Lyda Krewson said she was briefed Thursday morning by several EPA officials, in part because the city-owned St. Louis Lambert International Airport is close to the site. She said the city will have to work out an agreement with the Department of Energy, Republic and other involved entities regarding "bird mitigation" to ensure that uncovering garbage at the landfill won't attract birds that could interfere with aircraft serving Lambert.

Governor Eric Greitens

"We're glad to see that Administrator Pruitt is tackling a tough problem that was ignored under the previous administration and keeping his promise to the people of Missouri."

St. Louis County Executive Steve Stenger

"I am disappointed in the EPA's decision. I, like many residents, believe the EPA should have elected to excavate and remove all hazardous material from West Lake Landfill. St. Louis County will continue to monitor water and air quality at the site. We will also do everything in our power to help address any serious long-term health and safety concerns of residents near the landfill."

WHAT POTENTIALLY RESPONSIBLE PARTIES ARE SAYING

Republic Services

- "pleased that the EPA has finally ended decades of study and again is issuing a proposed plan for the site."
- "From here, we will participate fully during the EPA's comment period, as well as engage vigorously with the EPA and the other PRPs to ensure that the final remedy performed is based on science, and is fully protective of human health, including onsite workers performing any remedy, the community, and the environment," the company said. "The path to beginning implementation of the final Record of Decision (ROD) could take years."

Cotter Corporation

Cotter, in a statement, said the company "will continue to work toward a science-based solution that protects the health and safety of the local community." – Post-Dispatch

Department of Energy

Did not release a statement

WHAT OTHER COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE SAYING

Ed Smith, Missouri Coalition for the Environment

- Thanks @EPAScottPruitt for recognizing only a cap is not a real solution. Now let's band together and get the @EPA to support full removal and offsite disposal during the public comment period! #WestLakeLandfill
- "People throughout St. Louis need to rise up and flood the EPA with public comments for full removal and offsite disposal unless they want to continue living alongside this radioactive threat." – KSDK
- "Partial removal is not acceptable. It means high levels of radioactivity will be left behind with the potential for water or airborne contamination into the future, creating unnecessary long-term risks to the St. Louis region," said Ed Smith, Policy Director with the Missouri Coalition for the Environment. "People throughout the St. Louis need to rise up and flood the EPA with public comments for full removal and offsite disposal unless they want to continue living alongside this radioactive threat." MCE Statement published on KMOX (CBS)

Dawn Chapman, Just Moms STL

- ALL*****We are calling an EMERGENCY MEETING for TONIGHT!! 6:30pm John Calvin Presbyterian 12567 Natural Bridge Rd, Bridgeton, MO 63044. We want to discuss this decision and help you all understand what this means! PLEASE BE THERE!!!!
- "Our goals, along with relocating the residents, have always been getting the radioactive waste out of the Missouri River floodplain and away from the threat of the underground fire," said non-profit group Just Moms STL in a statement. –KSDK
- "They're going to remove 70 percent of the waste," said Dawn Chapman, who leads the Just Moms nonprofit group. "The administrator is calling it 'excavation plus.'" -- St. Louis Public Radio
- Just Moms STL is hailing the partial removal proposal as a victory. More to come. – Eli Chen St. Louis Public Radio

Karen Nickel, Just Moms STL

- "We [the community] have been waiting over a quarter of a century for a safe and permanent solution to the radioactive waste at the landfill," said co-founder Karen Nickel in a statement. "A remedy at this site was long overdue. However, partial removal is neither safe nor permanent, and there is no mention of relocation of vulnerable families with children. One thing is certain, relocation options must happen before the first shovel of dirt is removed." -- KSDK

Several postings of the STL Post-Dispatch and Fox news articles

- HUGE WIN for you two! Congratulations and Thank you for your hard work and dedication to keeping everyone safe! ❤️ us God Bless you both and everyone else who persisted in this fight!
- Today is the day. In just a few short hours we'll know what the final proposed remedy for West Lake Landfill is. Years of hard work and dedication is coming down to one moment. Pray this community gets the long-awaited decision it deserves. My nerves are shot. **#Relocation** and **#FullExcavation**
- EPA's remediation plan must be implemented IMMEDIATELY, as the underground fire is approaching radioactive waste at West Lake Landfill. Residents in the St. Louis region simply do not have the luxury of five years. EPA must take action now.
- This site has been 27 years waiting for the EPA to clean it up. Finally, since we have a president who gets things done, we have an EPA director who gets things done. The decision was made yesterday to clean it up. **#MAGA**
- EPA plans to partially extract radioactive material at West Lake Landfill – <http://FOX2now.com>. The residents surrounding this landfill should be relocated!!
- West Lake Superfund. EPA has studied it for 27 years, studied it! Not cleaned it up! What happened at EPA? Bureaucracy! Pruitt has refocused EPA on their original mission. Well done!

FULL NEWS ARTICLES

Editorial: EPA's solution to West Lake will leave region exposed to nuclear dangers

By the Editorial Board 4:45 p.m.

http://www.stltoday.com/opinion/editorial/editorial-epa-s-solution-to-west-lake-will-leave-region/article_2c0771fb-bf91-5816-bc72-1603929e1a27.html

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt on Thursday offered up a Band-Aid solution for the nuclear waste buried at the West Lake Landfill, by far the most serious environmental hazard confronting the St. Louis region. Band-Aids won't cover the serious dangers posed by waste whose radioactive threat will last for many millennia.

Pruitt's decision to only partially excavate the West Lake site, where thousands of tons of Manhattan Project nuclear waste were dumped illegally in 1973, is better than allowing all the waste to continue sitting there percolating, minimally protected from seepage and migration. His plan would excavate only 16 feet down even though the waste is believed to go many times deeper.

Pruitt offered this curious response in remarks to the Post-Dispatch's Bryce Gray early Thursday: "The consideration here was timing, it was certainty, it was respect to human health that was being protected."

Timing? The region has waited four decades for a solution to this problem. Yes, we wanted action, but the goal was never to choose the quickest or most expedient solution.

Certainty? There's zero certainty in removing only some hazardous waste while leaving much more behind.

Respect for human health? An unlined nuclear landfill means the waste left behind will still be vulnerable to water seepage and off-site migration. The threat to human health will remain for centuries. The Missouri River is downhill only two miles away.

Pruitt's decision no doubt is good news for West Lake's owner, Republic Services, which faces huge potential remediation costs. The correct solution — full excavation and removal to an offsite facility designed for long-term nuclear-waste storage — would have cost \$695 million. Pruitt's chosen solution will cost about \$236 million.

Republic's advocates have long pressed for a cheaper solution that involves leaving the waste intact but permanently capped to minimize exposure to above-ground elements. Republic said in a statement that it "is pleased that the EPA has finally ended decades of study and again is issuing a proposed plan for the site."

Others aren't so pleased. "Partial removal is not acceptable. It means high levels of radioactivity will be left behind with the potential for water or airborne contamination into the future, creating unnecessary long-term risks to the St. Louis region," said Ed Smith, policy director with the Missouri Coalition for the Environment.

Pruitt had many options, and our worst fear was that he would make the most business-friendly, environmentally hostile choice, as he has previously. A partial solution is better than the buck-passing non-solution the region has had to tolerate since the 1970s.

Once the excavation begins, which could still be years away, it's possible the EPA will better understand the magnitude of the problem and rethink its decision. St. Louis-area residents should accept nothing short of a full cleanup.

P-D STORY WAS UPDATED AT 5:50 P.M.

EPA wants to do partial excavation of contaminants at radioactive West Lake Landfill Superfund site

By Bryce Gray St. Louis Post-Dispatch

In a long-awaited decision that appears to be a compromise, the Environmental Protection Agency on Thursday recommended partial excavation of the West Lake Landfill in Bridgeton to remove radioactive waste linked to the Manhattan Project.

The EPA said the proposed remedy, which it calls "Excavation Plus," is expected to take five years to implement and will remove the "majority" of radioactivity by digging to a depth of about 16 feet, while installing an engineered cover system for long-term protection.

"The consideration here was timing, it was certainty, it was respect to human health that was being protected," EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt told the Post-Dispatch in a phone call Thursday morning. Radioactive waste was dumped illegally at West Lake in the early 1970s, but the landfill wasn't placed on the Superfund National Priorities List until 1990.

Today, the landfill is widely regarded as one of the most high-profile — and complex — Superfund sites in the country, and in December was named one of 21 nationwide to be targeted for "immediate, intense action" by the EPA Superfund Task Force.

Though area residents and others waited patiently for a cleanup strategy to finally emerge, for years many have pushed fervently for a single, maximally protective option: full excavation and off-site removal of the landfill's contaminants — the most thorough and expensive option the EPA had considered.

Meanwhile, companies such as Republic Services — which operates the landfill through a subsidiary and is one of the entities responsible for funding the site's remediation — strongly opposed calls to excavate the landfill and instead supported a "capping" strategy as a preferred remedial action. Other entities potentially on the hook for the cleanup costs include the U.S. Department of Energy and Chicago-based energy company Exelon Corp., which formerly owned uranium processor Cotter Corp.

The proposal announced Thursday falls in between those wishes of the most vocal community members and industrial interests.

"A cap is not sufficient to protect the health of the citizens in the area," Pruitt said.

Other options weighed by the EPA included an enhanced capping strategy that would meet federal standards for uranium radiation control, a full excavation alternative with disposal of radioactive material in an on-site storage cell, or varying degrees of partial excavation. Another partial excavation scenario would have removed material at any depth until a certain concentration of radioactive contamination was reached.

The options ranged in cost from estimates of \$75 million for the basic capping remedy, to \$695 million for full excavation combined with off-site disposal. The selected remedy is projected to cost \$236 million and will include the enhanced cap, EPA officials said.

A feasibility study released in the months leading up to the proposal estimated that the 16-foot partial excavation strategy would remove 27 percent of "radiologically impacted material" from the site. With the announcement Thursday, however, agency officials said that removing that material would address the bulk — about 70 percent — of the landfill's total radioactivity. Pruitt said the agency would take public comment to help determine whether the material is eventually disposed of in on-site or off-site containment cells.

Some in the community who have followed the issue said that the proposed measure does not go far enough.

"Partial removal is not acceptable," said Ed Smith, policy director with the Missouri Coalition for the Environment, in a statement. "It means high levels of radioactivity will be left behind with the potential for water or airborne contamination into the future, creating unnecessary long-term risks to the St. Louis region."

Others were more supportive of the proposal and said it marks an "encouraging" change of direction from the agency.

"The major victory is we heard a lot of acknowledgment from EPA that this waste is dangerous and needs to be removed from your community," said Dawn Chapman, a co-founder of Just Moms STL, a group of resident activists focusing on the landfill that contains radioactive waste. "This is a far cry from the conversation that was happening five years ago."

Chapman was among a group of concerned citizens who spent Thursday morning discussing the proposal in person with agency officials, including Albert Kelly, a top adviser to Pruitt and the chairman of the Superfund Task Force.

"There's no doubt from what he said that they'd been lobbied hard to make a different decision," Chapman said. "Overall, I feel like we're in good hands right now."

Pruitt said that although deeper radioactive contamination occurs 40 to 80 feet beneath the landfill's surface, it does not pose a public health risk and, according to agency technicians, removing it could possibly trigger a new subsurface fire.

"As we looked at going deeper than we are now, we had to ask the question: Is it necessary to protect health and does it pose other risks and dangers?" said Pruitt. "We absolutely, through this process, thought through all those options and believe we've gone down exactly the amount of depth we need to go to achieve protection and also not to create new issues and new concerns for people in the community."

He said he was also concerned by the extra decade that deeper excavations were expected to take for completion.

"The proposal that I saw with that was around 14 to 15 years, and that's something that I thought was simply not acceptable," Pruitt said. "It did not provide that kind of certainty to the community."

Reactions from area politicians ranged from disappointment that full removal of contamination was not pursued to relief that the EPA was, at last, advancing toward a plan of action at the site.

Rep. Lacy Clay, D-St. Louis, called the decision "a huge victory for our long-suffering community." Rep. Ann Wagner, R-Ballwin, applauded the EPA for proposing "a viable, permanent solution." But St. Louis County Executive Steve Stenger said he was disappointed in the EPA's proposal, saying the agency "should have elected to excavate and remove all hazardous material from the West Lake Landfill."

St. Louis Mayor Lyda Krewson said she was briefed Thursday morning by several EPA officials, in part because the city-owned St. Louis Lambert International Airport is close to the site. She said the city will have to work out an agreement with the Department of Energy, Republic and other involved entities regarding "bird mitigation" to ensure that uncovering garbage at the landfill won't attract birds that could interfere with aircraft serving Lambert.

Manhattan Project legacy

The radioactive contamination at the site traces its origins to the development of nuclear weapons through the Manhattan Project in World War II, which used uranium processed at the Mallinckrodt Chemical Works factory north of downtown St. Louis. In 1973, about 8,700 tons of leached barium sulfate from the weapons program was "mixed with approximately 38,000 tons of contaminated soil and used to cover trash being dumped" at the landfill, according to the EPA.

The process of settling on a cleanup strategy also stretches back decades. After years of analysis, a decision to place a cap over the landfill was seemingly reached in a 2008 "record of decision" from the EPA, before public outcry pressured the agency to re-evaluate. That record of decision had not regarded groundwater as a potential pathway for contamination, although the unlined landfill rests above a porous layer of gravel in the flood plain of the Missouri River.

In the years to follow, the site took on new levels of notoriety — and public concern — when a smoldering underground fire was detected in the adjacent Bridgeton Landfill in 2010. The fire, officially referred to as a “subsurface smoldering event,” is still burning a couple hundred yards away from areas of known radioactive contamination.

With Thursday’s newly proposed remedy, the agency has now taken a major step — perhaps the biggest step — toward producing another record of decision for the site. By Feb. 6, when a formal notice is published and supporting documents that guided the decision will be available, the proposal will be subject to a period of public comment before any decision is finalized. People will be able to submit comments by mail, email, or online or in person at a March 6 meeting in Bridgeton.

"I do want to emphasize this is a proposal," Pruitt said. "We may learn things throughout this decision that inform this process."

That process is likely to attract a storm of comments from both citizens and the entities paying for cleanup — formally identified as "Potentially Responsible Parties," or PRPs. Depending on the amount of feedback received, that final decision could still be months away, or beyond.

"The path to beginning implementation of the final record of decision could take years," Republic Services said in a statement on Thursday. "From here, we will participate fully during the EPA’s comment period, as well as engage vigorously with the EPA and the other PRPs to ensure that the final remedy performed is based on science, and is fully protective of human health."

A spokesperson for the Department of Energy did not respond to a request for comment. Cotter, in a statement, said the company "will continue to work toward a science-based solution that protects the health and safety of the local community."

Community members are also preparing to make their voices heard in the comment period, including those still advocating for full excavation of the site's contamination.

"If people around St. Louis agree that while they're digging, they should get it all, hopefully we get a massive public comment," Smith said.

Chapman said that while EPA officials noted they are confident there is sufficient scientific evidence to fend off challenges to the proposal, she has some concern about well-funded opposition hindering it from crossing the finish line.

"There's a lot that this community still faces with this site," Chapman said. "We have an even bigger battle now to make sure this happens."

Sidebars in Post-Dispatch article: ELECTED OFFICIALS REACT

From effusive praise to disappointment, the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed cleanup strategy for the radioactive West Lake Landfill Superfund site in Bridgeton attracted a wide range of reactions from area elected officials. Here are the statements they released about the announcement from the Environmental Protection Agency.

U.S. Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo. • “West Lake families have been tireless advocates for the health and safety of their children and community. They should not have had to wait 27 years for a plan to clean up the site, especially when they were promised action under the previous administration. I thank Administrator (Scott) Pruitt for making West Lake a priority and moving quickly to offer a plan to clean up the site. Families living near West Lake will now have an opportunity to review the proposal and make their voices heard. I will continue listening to them and working with the administration on a path forward that gives families the peace of mind they deserve.”

Rep. William Lacy Clay, D-St. Louis • “As the first Member of Congress to call for the removal of nuclear waste from West Lake landfill, today’s announcement by the EPA of a cleanup is a huge victory for our long-suffering community and it is a major step towards long-delayed environmental justice.

“As I have said from the beginning, this nuclear waste, which dates back to the Manhattan Project, is a 75-year old problem. The United States government created this waste and we have a responsibility to clean it up.

“I want to thank EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt for his leadership in helping reach this decision. And I especially want to salute the courage and sacrifice of Just Moms STL, the Missouri Coalition for the Environment and the many citizen environmental advocates whose dogged determination and faith have led us to this landmark decision that will keep our community safe.”

Gov. Eric Greitens • “We’re glad to see that Administrator Pruitt is tackling a tough problem that was ignored under the previous administration and keeping his promise to the people of Missouri.”

U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo. • “After years of pushing EPA, I’m pleased this is finally moving in the right direction.”

St. Louis County Executive, Steve Stenger • “I am disappointed in the EPA’s decision. I, like many residents, believe the EPA should have elected to excavate and remove all hazardous material from the West Lake Landfill. St. Louis County will continue to monitor water and air quality at the site. We will also do everything in our power to help address any serious long-term health and safety concerns of residents near the landfill.”

Rep. Ann Wagner, R-Ballwin • “After years of broken promises and inaction by previous administrations, Administrator Pruitt and the EPA are proposing a viable, permanent solution for cleaning up the West Lake Landfill. I commend them for delivering on this promise to our community and prioritizing Missourians who have lived in fear and uncertainty for too long. The general public will now have the opportunity to review this proposal and share their thoughts and concerns.

“Today’s much anticipated announcement is a testament to the local leaders I have worked with since my first year in Congress to ensure the safety and well-being of the families surrounding the West Lake Landfill. Their tireless efforts have made this a top priority, and it is an honor to represent such a strong and committed community in Washington, D.C.”

(sidebar in Post-Dispatch article)

TIMELINE

1973 • B&K Construction, a contractor for uranium producer Cotter Corp., dumps uranium-processing waste at West Lake Landfill without authorization.

August 2005 • The Bridgeton Landfill stops accepting waste to reduce the potential for birds to interfere with operations at nearby Lambert-St. Louis International Airport.

June 2008 • Republic Services agrees to buy Allied Waste, entering the St. Louis market and taking ownership of the landfills.

December 2010 • Republic reports underground smoldering at the landfill.

February 2013 • The Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) declares odors generated by the smoldering waste a nuisance and orders Republic to pay for air sampling.

March 2013 • Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster sues Republic, accusing the company of violating state environmental laws. An agreement, reached in May 2013, outlines a plan of action that includes capping the landfill by early September.

September 2013 • Republic agrees to build a fire break between the Bridgeton and West Lake landfills to alleviate concern that the reaction will spread to radioactive contamination in West Lake.

August 2014 • Republic Services is nearly finished with a wastewater plant. A leachate collection system, a gas extraction system and a cap and flare system to reduce odors and gases are in place.

September 2014 • DNR consultant warns that fire is approaching the northern area of the landfill, which is adjacent to West Lake, and is not under control, refuting Republic's assurances.

January 2015 • Another DNR consultant warns of air intrusion and the possibility of a subsurface fire, or the precursor to one, in "close proximity" to the radioactive waste in the West Lake Landfill.

May 2015 • The EPA begins testing for radioactive waste it now believes may be in the northern edge of the Bridgeton Landfill, outside of the restricted West Lake area.

August 2015 • DNR asks for more measures to control the landfill fire and keep it from reaching the northern portion of the landfill.

September 2015 • Koster releases expert reports indicating that the fire is moving closer to the radioactive waste and that radiological contamination was found in some off-site vegetation.

October 2015 • St. Louis County releases an emergency plan and school districts send letters home, prompting widespread concern. Construction on the barrier from West Lake, awaiting approval from the Environmental Protection Agency, still has not started.

August 2016: Regional EPA officials say they hope to identify a proposed remedy by the end of the year. They later announced that the decision had been postponed.

December 2017: Before a U.S. House Energy and Commerce subcommittee, new EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said the agency would announce a cleanup proposal at West Lake in January. The following day, the site was named one of 21 Superfund sites in the country to be targeted for "immediate, intense action," based on the recommendations of a Superfund Task Force.

January 2018: The pending lawsuit between the state of Missouri and Republic Services — which had been set for a jury trial in March — is stayed by a court order seeking to give the parties additional time to work toward a settlement. The order said a new trial would be set if a settlement cannot be finalized.

February 2018: The EPA proposes partially excavating the site's "radiologically impacted material," to a depth of 16 feet. The approach would be paired with installation of a cap designed to meet certain standards for containing uranium radiation.

EPA announces plan for suburban St. Louis landfill cleanup

By Jim Salter and Heather Hollingsworth | AP February 1 at 6:04 PM

https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/epa-announces-plan-for-suburban-st-louis-landfill-cleanup/2018/02/01/5a324c58-0797-11e8-aa61-f3391373867e_story.html?utm_term=.6ec3b4b914d3

ST. LOUIS — The Environmental Protection Agency plans to clean up radioactive waste at a suburban St. Louis landfill by removing most of the Cold War-era nuclear material and capping the rest, the agency said Thursday.

The announcement of the \$236 million project ends years of wrangling over what to do with radioactive material illegally dumped more than 40 years ago at West Lake Landfill in Bridgeton, material that sits dangerously close to a smoldering underground fire at an adjacent landfill. An earlier remediation plan to cap the entire radioactive site with rock, clay and soil, announced a decade ago, was scrapped amid strong local opposition.

Under the new plan, about 70 percent of the worst contamination will be removed. The rest will be contained within a permanent cap that will provide “additional protection to the community over the long term,” EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said in a news release.

The project is expected to take about five years, though it isn’t yet clear when it would start. The landfill has been on the EPA’s Superfund list since 1990.

Karen Nickel, who lives less than two miles from the landfill and co-founded the activist group Just Moms STL, said it’s a good plan but long overdue.

“We view this as a victory for this community, that EPA has now acknowledged this is dangerous and it needs to be taken away,” Nickel said. “It’s been a long, hard battle.”

U.S. Sen. Roy Blunt, a Missouri Republican, released a statement saying families “should not have had to wait 27 years for a plan to clean up the site.” Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill said she was pleased “this is finally moving in the right direction.”

But Ed Smith, policy director for the Missouri Coalition for the Environment, said partial removal “is not acceptable.”

“It means high levels of radioactivity will be left behind with the potential for water or airborne contamination into the future, creating unnecessary long-term risks to the St. Louis region,” Smith said in a statement.

The cleanup cost is expected to be split between the U.S. Department of Energy, which oversaw nuclear weapons projects during the Cold War; the energy company Exelon, which formerly owned Cotter Corp., a uranium processor; and Bridgeton Landfill Inc. and Rock Road Industries, two entities of Republic Services, the company that acquired the landfill through a merger several years ago.

Republic Services said it would work to “ensure that the final remedy performed is based on science” and “fully protective of human health.” A statement from the company said it could take years for the work to begin.

The EPA has drawn criticism for coming up with a plan since the 2008 proposal was discarded. U.S. Rep. Ann Wagner, a St. Louis County Republican, was among those who called for the Army Corps of Engineers to take over cleanup from the EPA. The corps agreed to work alongside EPA on the project, but the EPA continued to oversee it.

West Lake Landfill was contaminated in the 1970s after a contractor illegally dumped uranium processing waste. Uranium was processed in St. Louis for the Manhattan Project, the top-secret government program that produced the first nuclear weapons.

Adding to the worry is the underground smoldering at the adjacent Bridgeton Landfill, also owned by Republic Services. The cause is unclear, but the company has spent more than \$200 million to both contain the smoldering and to reduce a significant odor caused by it. A lawsuit over the odor filed by 34 nearby residents was settled in 2016. Terms were not disclosed.

The EPA has said all along that neighboring residents faced no risk from radiation. The agency’s testing has found no evidence that radioactive material has migrated beyond the landfill.

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources in July found radioactive contaminants in stormwater just outside the landfill. But the EPA said its own testing showed “no offsite unacceptable public health risks” in the stormwater.

Hollingsworth reported from Kansas City, Missouri.

EPA Sets Plan to Remove Radioactive Waste from Missouri Dump **West Lake landfill is one of more than 1,300 sites in the Superfund program**

Wall Street Journal

By Timothy Puko

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/epa-sets-plan-to-remove-radioactive-waste-from-missouri-dump-1517508064>

The Environmental Protection Agency plans to try to remove radioactive waste from a Missouri dump as part of a widespread effort to speed up how the government deals with the country’s most toxic sites.

The move, which is among the agency’s most urgent priorities, would end years of dispute over how to deal with thousands of tons of factory waste from the nuclear-weapons program buried for decades at West Lake landfill near St. Louis. Under the agency’s proposal, most of the dump’s radioactive contamination would be excavated and a permanent cap would be installed over the rest. It would take five years and cost \$236 million, according to the plan.

West Lake is one of more than 1,300 sites in the Superfund program, which manages places highly contaminated by lead, asbestos, radiation and other pollutants that can cause cancer, birth defects and other health and environmental harms. Major progress on that work could become a legacy-shifting achievement for a regulator now known largely for making friendlier relationships with industry and dismantling programs from the previous administration under President Barack Obama. President Donald Trump has pushed to rollback Obama-era rules designed to fight climate change and water pollution, among others, to help the energy industry and other businesses.

Mr. Pruitt has also argued the EPA could be more productive by focusing more on longstanding programs and problems, especially superfund cleanups.

The EPA first listed West Lake in 1990, but has been unable to come to a solution for the site. It decided in 2008 to leave the waste in place and cover it with a protective cap. But local residents protested, demanding the waste be hauled away and leading the EPA to reassess its plan. Some also accused the agency of pressuring an independent review board to soften challenges of an EPA plan.

West Lake’s owner, Republic Services Inc., will have to pay for the cleanup, the agency said. A subsidiary of the company involved with the site said it “is pleased that the EPA has finally ended decades of study and again is issuing a proposed plan for the site.” It said it plans to work with the EPA, but that it could be years before the proposal gets finalized and the cleanup starts.

The agency’s proposal suggests the best options are to put the excavated waste into a cell on site or ship it away to another site, Mr. Pruitt said. He noted another site about 20 miles away where similar waste is encased in a steel and concrete cell that can safely hold the waste for 1,000 years. The agency will be taking public comments on the proposal for the next 45 to 75 days and will consider those comments in deciding where the waste ultimately goes, Mr. Pruitt added.

The EPA and Republic have said their radiation sampling hasn’t shown evidence of the site posing a threat to the public. But one study has shown waste likely has migrated off-site and smoldering garbage buried in another part of the landfill may be also threatening to heat the radioactive waste. The Journal wrote about the West Lake controversy as part of a 2013 series on the legacy of the nuclear-weapons program.

“The EPA has lost credibility within the community, and left parents living in fear for their children’s health and safety,” Missouri Republican Sen. Roy Blunt had said during a 2016 effort to strip the agency of its oversight.

To help improve the Superfund program, Mr. Pruitt created a new list of sites in December—even though the program already had a priorities list—to highlight 21 sites in need of “immediate and intense attention.” That list includes West Lake. While critics have called the move political posturing, Mr. Pruitt has framed it as a way to renew emphasis and urgency on the program.

He has repeatedly listed Superfund sites as a priority, especially in 2018. He told the Journal his goal is for the agency to come to decisions on nearly 30 sites this year. Workers from the program have been in his office to thank him for raising issues that have been dormant for 15 to 20 years while climate change and other issues have taken priority, Mr. Pruitt said in a previous interview with the Journal.

“I think this agency for years has speculated about harm that may be happening you know a hundred years from now rather than on what’s happening in their own backyard,” Mr. Pruitt said.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt has promised to put renewed attention on resolving these threats, some of which have lingered for decades. He said the West Lake decision demonstrates his vision for the program.

“This sends a message that we’re actually going to get results,” Mr. Pruitt said in an interview with The Wall Street Journal. “Frankly it’s just what we ought to be doing.”

EPA orders cleanup at St. Louis nuclear waste site. What does it mean for the nation’s other toxic messes?

By Brady Dennis February 1 at 11:47 AM

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2018/02/01/epa-orders-cleanup-at-st-louis-nuclear-waste-site-what-does-it-mean-for-the-nations-other-toxic-messes/?utm_term=.b58eeb13be55

The Environmental Protection Agency on Thursday ordered a long-awaited cleanup of a Superfund site northwest of St. Louis, saying residents living near the landfill contaminated with World War II-era nuclear waste deserve action after waiting 27 years for federal regulators to issue a decision.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt’s decision to partially excavate tons of radioactive material from the West Lake Landfill over the next five years — at an expected cost of \$236 million to the liable companies — goes beyond a 2008 solution proposed by the George W. Bush administration to merely cover and monitor the waste.

“The people of the St. Louis region deserve clarity and answers,” Pruitt said in a statement Thursday. “I promised them an answer, and today I am making good on that commitment.” He added that he sought a remedy at the controversial site that would “protect public health, comply with the law, and hold potentially responsible parties accountable.”

Thursday’s announcement also was intended to be Exhibit A in demonstrating Pruitt’s commitment to revitalizing the agency’s Superfund program, which includes the nation’s most polluted sites, by streamlining and accelerating cleanups. But it underscored how few Superfund sites have simple answers, though nearly all of them generate intense emotions.

“We were hoping for full, 100 percent excavation. But we know that would be difficult to accomplish,” said Dawn Chapman, co-founder of Just Moms, an activist group that has long pushed for an extensive excavation with relocation of families near the landfill.

She said her group views the outcome as a hard-fought victory, but one that is far from guaranteed given the public comment and cleanup process likely to unfold over years. “We have to stay here and watch it and see it through,” she said. “I look ahead, and I see these other big battles coming. We’re not going to blink, because you can’t ... We will continue to fight to get even more [radioactive waste] removed.”

Pruitt's decision goes farther than the action sought by Republic Services and Exelon Corp., whose subsidiaries are responsible for the cleanup at West Lake along with the federal Department of Energy. The companies have argued that the agency's own science shows capping the waste is the safer option and that excavating the toxic material could create serious public health risks.

While the \$236 million price tag of the EPA plan is significantly higher than what the firms hoped to spend, it is well below the cost, projected at nearly \$700 million, of a full excavation.

In a statement, Republic Services said it was "pleased that the EPA has finally ended decades of study and again is issuing a proposed plan for the site." But the company cautioned that a final decision could take years.

What remains to be seen is whether the decision on West Lake represents how Pruitt is likely to approach other Superfund sites or it is merely an outlier.

In recent months, Pruitt has promised aggressive Superfund cleanups and made a public show of butting heads with corporate interests — something he has rarely done on other issues during his first year at the EPA. Yet aside from creating a list of 21 targets needing "immediate and intense" attention, as well as forming a special task force to recommend ways to expedite cleanups and "reduce the burden" on companies involved, Pruitt has explained very little about how he intends to deal with the hundreds of other toxic waste sites around the country.

"What's the plan for the other sites that aren't on [Pruitt's] priority list?" asked Nancy Loeb, director of the Environmental Advocacy Center at Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law. She said Pruitt's decision at West Lake might be "a positive step" but added, "It raises the question of whether Superfund is being used to showcase a few projects without actually doing more to clean up contamination at all 1,300 [Superfund] sites."

Meanwhile, the Trump administration has proposed cutting the Superfund program's budget by 30 percent, or about \$330 million annually. And while there are responsible companies that the EPA can legally force to pay for cleanups at many of the locations Pruitt has mentioned, many others are "orphan" sites where the polluters have gone bankrupt or are no longer legally liable for remedying the problem. At those, the federal government still shoulders most of the tab — and the pot of available dollars keeps shrinking.

"I am concerned about orphan sites across the country in the Superfund portfolio," Pruitt told lawmakers on Capitol Hill this week. "I think there are greater challenges beyond money. But money matters in that side of our responsibilities."

Pruitt highlighted West Lake early in his tenure at the EPA.

"The past administration honestly just didn't pay attention to [it]," he insisted on a local radio show in April. "We're going to get things done at West Lake. The days of talking are over." In May, Pruitt took to television to say a plan was coming "very soon."

Eight months have passed since then. But families in the shadow of West Lake, which was added to the Superfund program in 1990, are no strangers to waiting. The site's 200 acres include not just the radioactive waste illegally dumped in 1973 but also a former sanitary landfill. Decomposing trash is smoldering underground in what scientists call a "subsurface burning event." There have been ongoing concerns about the fire reaching the radioactive waste, though the companies there have taken numerous steps to prevent that.

Over the years, local residents have complained of quality-of-life and health problems, from a periodic stench in the air to anecdotal tales of cancers, autoimmune disorders and miscarriages in adjacent neighborhoods. At the same time, numerous air, water and soil tests from the EPA and other government agencies have shown no link to such conditions.

Pruitt's plan will now be open for a period of public comment before it is finalized.

West Lake Landfill: EPA proposal is latest chapter in long, troubled history

BY: Lindsay Toler

<http://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/west-lake-landfill-epa-proposal-latest-chapter-long-troubled-history#stream/0>

The Environmental Protection Agency proposal to partially remove nuclear weapons waste from a northwest St. Louis County landfill marks a major shift in approach to a problem that's plagued residents for decades.

Since 1990, federal officials have either passed the buck on remediating West Lake Landfill or proposed building a cap over the site, which does little to prevent the tons of radioactive waste from contaminating groundwater.

On Thursday, EPA head Scott Pruitt announced his "Excavation Plus" proposal to remove much of the waste, which is about 600 feet from an underground fire in the adjacent Bridgeton Landfill, and permanently cover the rest.

Here's a guide to our coverage.

Pruitt has publicly criticized previous presidential administrations for failing to decide on a remedy for West Lake Landfill. He's repeatedly named the landfill in interviews with national news outlets as an example of governmental delay and ineptitude.

"It's taken 28 years just to make a decision — not clean it up, not remediate it, just decide how we're going to do it," Pruitt said about West Lake Landfill in a [CBS News interview](#) that aired Jan. 18. "That's unacceptable."

In Thursday's announcement, Pruitt said his response to West Lake is representative of his approach to the entire Superfund program.

[Read more about the EPA proposal](#)

"I am pleased to announce a proposed remedy that will strategically excavate and remove within five years all the radioactive material that poses a risk to public health," Pruitt said in a statement.

Decades of problems

After purchasing chemicals that came from Mallinckrodt Chemical Works' nuclear weapons research, a contractor for Cotter Corporation illegally dumped contaminated uranium processing waste at West Lake Landfill in 1973. Today, the waste remains buried in the unlined quarry where it is exposed to groundwater. The federal government put West Lake low on a National Priorities List, making it a Superfund site, in 1990, and it's climbed the ranks since then. But there's never been consensus for a remedy.

In December 2010, officials discovered that an underground fire at adjacent Bridgeton Landfill is smoldering at temperatures as high as 300 Fahrenheit. Nearby residents [first noticed an increase in smelly fumes](#) from the landfill burning early in the spring of 2012. Since then, air sampling has occasionally detected unsafe concentrations of toxic gas.

No one knows for sure if the underground fire will meet the contaminated waste, which is about 600 feet away, or what would happen if it did. The lack of certainty concerns residents, especially after nearby schools alerted parents of emergency plans in case it happened during schools hours. Read more in our story for NPR from 2015: [Landfill Fire Threatens Nuclear Waste Site Outside St. Louis](#)

Read more

[Confused about Bridgeton, West Lake landfills? Here's what you should know](#)

This FAQ guide is a good place to start if you're new to the issues at West Lake and Bridgeton landfills. We first published it in 2014 to answer questions about the north St. Louis County complex, where an underground fire has smoldered near World War II-era nuclear weapons waste for years; then we updated the FAQ in 2015 when new warnings from federal officials caused awareness of the landfills — along with fear, confusion and misinformation — to spike.

[Who are the players in the West Lake and Bridgeton landfill sagas?](#)

Catch up on who's who with this handy breakdown and infographic. (Note: The story is from 2015, so the State & Regional Officials section is a bit out of date.)

[St. Louis On the Air: Major Players Discuss Bridgeton and West Lake Landfills](#)

In 2014, on "St. Louis on the Air," host Don Marsh moderated a conversation on the landfills with St. Louis Public Radio's then-science reporter Véronique LaCapra along with Ed Smith, safe energy director at the Missouri Coalition for the Environment, Russ Knocke, public affairs director for the company that owns both landfills, and Dawn Chapman, a resident who lives near the landfills.

We've also organized previous coverage by topic:

- [West Lake Landfill](#)
- [Bridgeton Landfill](#)

Catch up

The last time West Lake Landfill was in the news was October 2017, when Albert Kelly, senior adviser to EPA administrator Scott Pruitt and the head of the agency's Superfund Task Force, came to Bridgeton for a forum with residents and announced that the EPA would conduct further testing for radioactive contamination. Since then, the EPA released a list of priority projects that includes West Lake. The agency said it would release a remedy proposal by January 2018.

Keep reading: [EPA plans to conduct further testing for radioactive waste at West Lake Landfill](#)

What to watch

- HBO will screen a documentary about West Lake Landfill called *Atomic Homefront* on Feb. 12. You can learn more about the documentary from "St. Louis on the Air" with director Rebecca Cammisa: [HBO's 'Atomic Homefront' explores the citizen activist movement around nuclear waste in St. Louis.](#)
- *The Safe Side of the Fence* is a documentary that explores first-hand accounts of former employees of Mallinckrodt and residents who live near sites contaminated by Manhattan Project waste. Also on SLOTA, Marsh interviews director and St. Louis native Tony West: [New documentary explores St. Louis' connection to nuclear waste contamination.](#)

Buy out

Frustrated by delay at the federal level, Missouri lawmakers have filed bills to buy homes affected by West Lake contamination so families can move to a safer neighborhood without incurring debt or passing the problem along to the next homebuyer. Despite bipartisan cooperation, all attempts have failed.

Read more:

- [State Senate passes bill to buy homes near West Lake Landfill](#)
- [Missouri lawmakers demand passing bill to buyout residents near West Lake Landfill](#)
- [Failure of bill to buy out homes near West Lake Landfill leaves Bridgeton residents dismayed](#)

Health concerns

People who live near the landfill or who were exposed to the contamination have described many serious health complaints on top of chronic stress. Some residents have found contamination in their homes.

Read more:

- [Fighting for answers, residents near West Lake landfill suffer chronic stress](#)
- [Former McDonnell Douglas workers, residents file suit over radiation exposure](#)
- [EPA to clean radioactive contamination found on private property next to West Lake Landfill](#)

EPA delay

The EPA is responsible for fixing the problems at West Lake, but so far there has been more confusion than progress. Residents have unsuccessfully lobbied to transfer responsibility for the site to the Army Corps of Engineers. The

relationship between the EPA and St. Louis residents grew strained under President Obama, but President Trump's overhaul of the agency has brought a renewed focus on Superfund sites like West Lake.

EPA proposes partial removal of West Lake Landfill nuclear waste

BY: ELI CHEN & KAE M. PETRIN

<http://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/epa-proposes-partial-removal-west-lake-landfill-nuclear-waste#stream/0>

The Environmental Protection Agency has decided on a partial removal of World War II-era radioactive waste at the West Lake Landfill, in northwest St. Louis County.

The EPA proposed a remedy that would remove "the majority of the radioactive material" and construct a cover system to "best protect the community of Bridgeton over the long term," the agency said today in a news release.

"The people of the St. Louis region deserve clarity and answers with respect to the remediation of the West Lake Landfill," Scott Pruitt, EPA administrator, said. "I promised them an answer, and today I am making good on that commitment."

Residents who live near the site praised the proposal. They said EPA officials informed them that the plan would remove much of the waste, which is about 600 feet from an underground smoking fire at the Bridgeton Landfill.

"They're going to remove 70 percent of the waste," said Dawn Chapman, who leads the Just Moms nonprofit group. "The administrator is calling it 'excavation plus.'"

The proposal should take five years and \$236 million to implement. EPA officials said that the remedy would decrease odors, limit the chance of a new underground smoldering fire, and protect workers on the site.

The public will be allowed to comment on the agency's proposals before administrators make a final decision. Landfill owner Republic Services noted that excavation could take years to begin.

Republic Services said in a release that it is "pleased that the EPA has finally ended decades of study and again is issuing a proposed plan for the site" and committed to participating in the EPA's decision.

The decision is the latest chapter in a longer history for the landfill, which the federal government deemed safe in the 1970s — only to discover later that the pollutants could be leaching into groundwater and contaminating nearby residents' homes.

Nuclear waste has sat at the site since its former owner, Cotter Corporation, dumped it there in 1973.

The West Lake Landfill has been on the EPA's National Priorities List since 1990. According to Republic Services, the site has awaited a remediation plan for more than 40 years.

Learn more about the landfills' histories:

After residents expressed concern about the site in 2010, the EPA reopened its review of the landfill. Waste management company Republic Services then discovered an underground fire in another landfill that it owns in nearby Bridgeton. It's not clear if the underground fire will meet the contaminated waste, or what would happen if it did.

In recent years, residents have complained that that exposure to the radioactive waste at the West Lake Landfill has put them at risk of developing cancer and other serious illnesses. They also worry that the fumes from the underground fire at the Bridgeton Landfill have caused asthma and other respiratory problems.

Scott Pruitt is Getting back to core mission of the agency

<http://video.foxbusiness.com/v/5724013018001/?#sp=show-clips>

Feb. 01, 2018 - EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt on green mandates and efforts to clean up a landfill in St. Louis, Missouri.

(no text, need to watch the video of the interview)

EPA announces plan to remove Manhattan Project nuclear waste from Missouri site

BY MIRANDA GREEN - 02/01/18 10:33

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/371792-epa-announces-plans-to-remove-nuclear-waste-from-decades-old-site-in>

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced new plans Thursday to partially remove toxic waste from a decades-old nuclear site in Missouri, a decision that mirrors Administrator Scott Pruitt's vow to make Superfunds a 2018 priority.

The proposed remedy, would both remove a majority of the radioactive waste linked to the Manhattan Project at the West Lake Landfill and construct a cap over the area. The EPA says the project is expected to cost \$236 million and take five years to implement.

"This decision demonstrates my vision for the Superfund program. Through leadership and responsiveness to communities, we will make decisions that protect public health, comply with the law, and hold potentially responsible parties accountable," Pruitt said in a statement.

For Bridgeton, Mo., residents who have been fighting to have the nuclear waste removed since the site was identified in 1970, the decision will be a welcome relief amidst public health and safety concerns. Until now the nuclear waste at Westlake has been contained on site and the surrounding area has been routinely monitored for ground water contamination.

The site has been on the Superfund National Priorities List since 1990. In December, the EPA named the sites one of 21 pinpointed for "immediate, intense action" by the Super Fund Task Force.

The EPA says that, depending on public feedback, the radioactive waste will either be shipped to an off-site disposal facility or placed in an on-site disposal cell.

In October, the EPA announced approval of a clean up plan at the San Jacinto Waste Pits in Texas. The cleanup plan according to EPA would include installing engineering controls and excavating almost 212,000 cubic yards of dioxin contaminated material for disposal. Some waste would have to be left behind. The remedy's estimated cost was pinned at \$115 million.

In connection with the San Jacinto clean up plan, Pruitt also announced his administration's specific focus on Superfund sites, saying in a statement, "EPA is prioritizing Superfund clean-up by making decisions in a decisive, timely manner."

Speaking to Fox Business Network Thursday morning, Pruitt said the American people are upset about his leadership at EPA because they don't know him very well.

"Why would they be upset with removing a Superfund site in St. Louis, Missouri?" he asked. "That's the issue here... should the agency be used as a weapon? Or to do good things like in Missouri?"

EPA plans to partially remove toxic waste from Waste Lake Landfill Superfund site

PUBLISHED: 8:58 AM CST, February 1, 2018

<https://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/news/2018/02/01/epa-plans-to-partially-remove-toxic-waste-from.html>

The Environmental Protection Agency has announced a final remedy to partially remove toxic waste from the West Lake Landfill in North County, a move community members have been expecting for the Superfund Site since December.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt on Thursday announced the proposed partial remedy which would remove the waste carried over from the Manhattan Project. The proposition will carry an additional period of public comment before final implementation. During that time, community members will have opportunities to pose questions, concerns and wishes to the EPA.

Republic Services Inc., one of the potentially responsible parties, said in a statement it is "pleased that the EPA has finally ended decades of study and again is issuing a proposed plan for the site."

"From here, we will participate fully during the EPA's comment period, as well as engage vigorously with the EPA and the other PRPs to ensure that the final remedy performed is based on science, and is fully protective of human health, including onsite workers performing any remedy, the community, and the environment," the company said. "The path to beginning implementation of the final Record of Decision (ROD) could take years."

The other potentially responsible parties are the U.S. Department of Energy and Exelon Corp.

Missouri Coalition for the Environment issued a response, saying in part, "Partial removal is not acceptable. It means high levels of radioactivity will be left behind with the potential for water or airborne contamination into the future, creating unnecessary long-term risks to the St. Louis region."

Ed Smith, Policy Director with MCE added, "People throughout St. Louis need to rise up and flood the EPA with public comments for full removal and offsite disposal unless they want to continue living alongside this radioactive threat."

The West Lake Landfill was first classified as a Superfund Site in 1990.

The EPA said in May that it found no radioactive waste in homes sampled in the Spanish Village neighborhood of Bridgeton. Republic Services Inc.'s West Lake Landfill is nearby.

EPA's Scott Pruitt proposes plan to remove radioactive waste at notorious West Lake Superfund site

Author: Josh Siegel

Published: 10:00 AM EST February 1, 2018

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/epas-scott-pruitt-proposes-plan-to-remove-radioactive-waste-at-notorious-west-lake-superfund-site/article/2647789>

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt announced Thursday a proposed plan to partially excavate radioactive waste at a notorious Superfund site northwest of St. Louis, Mo.

Pruitt proposes to remove the majority of radioactive material at the West Lake landfill within five years. The EPA also plans to place a permanent cap, or cover system, over the site for long-term protection. The EPA expects the plan to cost \$236 million over five years.

EPA's decision will be subject to the public comment process before being finalized.

"The people of the St. Louis region deserve clarity and answers with respect to the remediation of the West Lake Landfill," Pruitt said. "I promised them an answer, and today I am making good on that commitment. This decision demonstrates my vision for the Superfund program. Through leadership and responsiveness to communities, we will make decisions that protect public health, comply with the law, and hold potentially responsible parties accountable."

The West Lake landfill is one of the most high-profile Superfund sites in the country, staying on the National Priorities List since 1990.

The National Priorities List includes more than 1,300 locations that most urgently need cleanup of toxic chemicals.

West Lake made the list for containing thousands of tons of radioactive waste from the development of nuclear weapons during the World War II-era Manhattan Project.

Residents and local activists have pushed the EPA for full excavation and removal of radioactive waste at the site.

One local environmental group said Thursday that Pruitt's proposed action is not sufficient.

"Partial removal is not acceptable," said the Missouri Coalition for the Environment. "It means high levels of radioactivity will be left behind with the potential for water or airborne contamination into the future, creating unnecessary long-term risks to the St. Louis region."

The landfill operators, Republic Services and Exelon Corp., meanwhile, prefer the less costly "capping" method, rather than excavation. Pruitt's proposed plan falls in the middle of those two options.

Speeding up the cleanup of Superfund sites has been one of Pruitt's main goals. He has said he is cleaning up hazardous sites faster than his predecessors, recently announcing the EPA had removed all or parts of seven Superfund sites from the National Priorities List, meaning no further cleanup is needed at them.

But the EPA in previous years achieved similar or higher cleanup records. The EPA removed seven sites from the priority list in 2015, 15 sites in 2014 and 12 sites in 2013.

EPA: Plans to partially remove toxic waste from West Lake Landfill in place
The West Lake Landfill was first classified as a Superfund Site in 1990.

Author: Joel Hulse

Published: 8:24 AM CST February 1, 2018

<http://www.ksdk.com/article/news/local/epa-plans-to-partially-remove-toxic-waste-from-west-lake-landfill-in-place/63-513500262>

BRIDGETON, Mo. — The EPA announced a final remedy to partially remove toxic waste from the West Lake Landfill, a move community members have been expecting for the Superfund Site since December.

Thursday, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt announced the proposed partial remedy which would remove the waste carried over from the Manhattan Project. The proposition will carry an additional period of public comment before final implantation. During that time, community members will have opportunities to provide questions, concerns, and wishes to the EPA.

"Our goals, along with relocating the residents, have always been getting the radioactive waste out of the Missouri River floodplain and away from the threat of the underground fire," said non-profit group Just Moms STL in a statement.

The non-profit added they have already begun mobilizing to reject the EPA's latest remedy.

"We [the community] have been waiting over a quarter of a century for a safe and permanent solution to the radioactive waste at the landfill," said co-founder Karen Nickel in a statement. "A remedy at this site was long overdue. However, partial removal is neither safe nor permanent, and there is no mention of relocation of vulnerable families with children. One thing is certain, relocation options must happen before the first shovel of dirt is removed."

Missouri Coalition for the Environment issued a response, saying in part, "Partial removal is not acceptable. It means high levels of radioactivity will be left behind with the potential for water or airborne contamination into the future, creating unnecessary long-term risks to the St. Louis region."

Ed Smith, Policy Director with MCE added, "People throughout St. Louis need to rise up and flood the EPA with public comments for full removal and offsite disposal unless they want to continue living alongside this radioactive threat."

The West Lake Landfill was first classified as a Superfund Site in 1990.

<http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2018/02/01/epa-to-issue-decision-on-west-lake-landfill/>

February 1, 2018 at 7:41 am

ST. LOUIS (KMOX) – Looks like today will be the day the federal EPA formally announces plans for the West Lake landfill.

Dawn Chapman of the environmental watchdog group "Just Moms STL" posted on social media that the EPA confirms it will announce a decision on cleanup at the landfill, something her group has been advocating since about 2013.

The Post-Dispatch reports the EPA will pursue a "partial excavation" of waste linked to the Manhattan Project.

It cites information from EPA director Scott Pruitt and calls the decision somewhere between what most-vocal community members wanted and what industrial interests are.

The five-year project is anticipated to include an engineered cover system for longterm protection.

Report: EPA plans to partially extract radioactive material at West Lake Landfill

POSTED 7:33 AM, FEBRUARY 1, 2018,

<http://fox2now.com/2018/02/01/report-epa-plans-to-partially-extract-radioactive-material-at-west-lake-landfill/>

BRIDGETON, MO – The EPA has announced that it wants to pursue partial excavation as its strategy to remediate the West Lake Landfill Superfund site. The landfill is home to waste linked to the Manhattan project.

The proposed remedy, called "excavation plus," is expected to take five years to implement. The measure will remove the majority of radioactive contamination while installing an engineered cover system for long-term protection. The proposal will now be subject to a period of public comment before any decision is finalized.

West Lake Landfill Decision Announcement
MEDIA & SOCIAL MEDIA MONITORING UPDATE

02/01/2018

Final UPDATE at 7:00 p.m. CST

Top Changes:

New or significantly updated items are highlighted in green

- New Leadership comments
- New statement from Cotter
- STL Post-Dispatch publishes editorial
- STL Post-Dispatch story by Bryce Gray has updates
- AP story has updates

What Reporters are Writing/Saying:
(see full articles at the end of the document)

Bryce Gray, PD:

- The proposed remedy, called "Excavation Plus," is expected to take five years to implement. The measure will remove the majority of radioactive contamination, while installing an engineered cover system for long-term protection.
- The proposal announced Thursday falls in between those wishes of the most vocal community members and industrial interests.
- With Thursday's newly proposed remedy, the agency has now taken a major step — perhaps the biggest step — toward producing another record of decision for the site. The proposal will now be subject to a period of public comment before any decision is finalized.

Brady Dennis, Washington Post:

- There have been ongoing concerns about the fire reaching the radioactive waste, though the companies there have taken numerous steps to prevent that.
- Over the years, local residents have complained of quality-of-life and health problems, from a periodic stench in the air to anecdotal tales of cancers, autoimmune disorders and miscarriages in adjacent neighborhoods. At the same time, numerous air, water and soil tests from the EPA and other government agencies have shown no link to such conditions.
- Thursday's announcement also was intended to be Exhibit A in demonstrating Pruitt's commitment to revitalizing the agency's Superfund program, which includes the nation's most polluted sites, by streamlining and accelerating cleanups. Few sites have easy answers, but nearly all draw intense emotions, as seen in the fast reaction of some residents in the West Lake area.

Eli Chen & Kae M. Petrin

- Just Moms STL is hailing the partial removal proposal as a victory. More to come.
- Residents who live near the site praised the proposal. They said EPA officials informed them that the plan would remove much of the waste, which is about 600 feet from an underground smoking fire at the Bridgeton Landfill.

- "They're going to remove 70 percent of the waste," said Dawn Chapman, who leads the Just Moms nonprofit group. "The administrator is calling it 'excavation plus.'"
- The proposal should take five years and \$236 million to implement. EPA officials said that the remedy would decrease odors, limit the chance of a new underground smoldering fire, and protect workers on the site.
- The public will be allowed to comment on the agency's proposals before administrators make a final decision. Landfill owner Republic Services noted that excavation could take years to begin.

SOCIAL MEDIA LISTENING

Karen Nickel and Dawn Chapman Facebook Live Video

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/508327822519437/>



(8 minutes) "We are getting 70% excavation 'plus'" "we're happy we're hopeful." "There's a commitment. We have a direction now. Please remember it's excavation plus." "Be proud of your Mayor Terry Briggs. He rocked the show today. He asked the hard questions."

"These are tears of joy and happiness"

<https://www.facebook.com/karen.nickel.52/videos/o.508327822519437/10215694121774516/?type=2&theater>

84 Comments: (some examples)

Rhonda Rose Marsala · 6:22 Dawn and Karen...you're absolutely correct, this is an ENORMOUS VICTORY!!!! Take a bow ladies, all your hard work has paid off, so proud of you...big hugs my friends!! 70% is 70% more than zero...HUGE WIN!!!!!!!

Libbe HaLevy · 3:21 I am so proud of what you have accomplished on behalf of your community and the planet.

Robbin Ellison Dailey · 2:16 So much for Landfill Owner's Nonsensical statement of a "Managed Site!" Apparently their "management" isn't sufficient or adequate enough for Federal EPA!!!

Kevin Killeen, KMOX CBS Radio St. Louis

Twitter post: Kevin Killeen @KMOXKilleen: Karen Nickel and Dawn Chapman of Just Moms happy with EPA announcement on West Lake Landfill. (photo of Karen and Dawn posted by Kevin)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: 02/01/2018



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**UPDATE: EPA ADMINISTRATOR SCOTT PRUITT ANNOUNCES THE PROPOSED FINAL
REMEDY FOR WEST LAKE LANDFILL**

Early this morning, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt announced the proposed remedy to partially remove the Manhattan Project radioactive waste at West Lake Landfill. The community has been anticipating the announcement since early December when the landfill was listed as one of Superfund's Top Sites to receive intense and immediate action. The landfill has been classified a Superfund Site since 1990.

"We [the community] have been waiting over a quarter of a century for a safe and permanent solution to the radioactive waste at the landfill," says Co-founder Karen Nickel. "A remedy at this site was long overdue. However, there is no mention of relocation of vulnerable families with children. One thing is certain, relocation options must happen before the first shovel of dirt is moved."

Originally, EPA proposed only a 5% partial removal. Since the meeting this morning, we have learned that a partial removal consists of 70+%. This means the amount of radioactive waste being removed is significantly higher than previously considered and can potentially increase (never decrease) as the process and public comment period proceeds.

"We consider 70+% removal of the waste a victory and step in the right direction. Our goals, along with relocating the residents, have always been getting the radioactive waste out of the Missouri River floodplain and away from the threat of the underground fire," says Co-founder Dawn Chapman.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: 02/01/2018

As with all proposed remedies, there will be a public comment period. During this time, we will have the opportunity to provide our questions, concerns, and wishes to the EPA regarding the proposed remedy. We encourage everyone to participate as this is the only opportunity the public has to ensure our voices are heard.

Just Moms STL, alongside the community and its supporters, will continue to be a part of the process and will remain vigilant throughout implementation and cleanup.

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Eli Chen St Louis Public Radio

Just Moms STL is hailing the partial removal proposal as a victory. More to come.

<https://twitter.com/StoriesByEli>

Administrator Pruitt's Twitter: I've proposed a remedy for the West Lake Superfund site that will excavate and remove within 5 yrs all radioactive material that poses a risk to public health. I promised the people of Missouri an answer & today I'm making good on that commitment. → <https://goo.gl/Zbgz7B>

Rep. William Lacy Clay's Facebook:

As I have said from the beginning, this nuclear waste, which dates back to the #ManhattanProject is a 75-yr old problem. The United States government created this waste and we have a responsibility to clean it up. #westlakelandfill @Justmomsstl

Lacy Clay MO1st @LacyClayMO1

As the public comment period goes forward towards a final record of decision, we need to ask hard questions, remain vigilant and keep pushing for #environmentaljustice at #westlakelandfill I want to thank Administrator @EPAScottPruitt for his leadership in helping reach this decision. #westlakelandfill @Justmomsstl

Lacy Clay MO1stVerified account @LacyClayMO1

As the first Member of Congress to call for the removal of nuclear waste from #westlakelandfill, today's announcement by the @EPA of a cleanup is a huge victory for our long-suffering community and it is a major step towards #environmentaljustice @Justmomsstl

WHAT LEADERS ARE SAYING

Scott Pruitt:

- "The people of the St. Louis region deserve clarity and answers with respect to the remediation of the West Lake Landfill," Scott Pruitt, EPA administrator, said. "I promised them an answer, and today I am making good on that commitment."
- "The consideration here was timing, it was certainty, it was respect to human health that was being protected," said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt – Post Dispatch
- "A cap is not sufficient to protect the health of the citizens in the area," said Pruitt.
- "I do want to emphasize this is a proposal," Pruitt said. "We may learn things throughout this decision that inform this process." – Post Dispatch
- "This decision demonstrates my vision for the Superfund program. Through leadership and responsiveness to communities, we will make decisions that protect public health, comply with the law, and hold potentially responsible parties accountable," Pruitt said in a statement. The Hill
- Pruitt has publicly criticized previous presidential administrations for failing to decide on a remedy for West Lake Landfill. He's repeatedly named the landfill in interviews with national news outlets as an example of governmental delay and ineptitude. – St Louis Public Radio
- "It's taken 28 years just to make a decision — not clean it up, not remediate it, just decide how we're going to do it," Pruitt said about West Lake Landfill in a CBS News interview that aired Jan. 18. "That's unacceptable." – cited by St Louis Public Radio

- In Thursday's announcement, Pruitt said his response to West Lake is representative of his approach to the entire Superfund program. -- St Louis Public Radio

Senator Roy Blunt**Blunt Statement on Environmental Protection Agency's West Lake Announcement**

"West Lake families have been tireless advocates for the health and safety of their children and community. They should not have had to wait 27 years for a plan to clean up the site, especially when they were promised action under the previous administration. I thank Administrator (Scott) Pruitt for making West Lake a priority and moving quickly to offer a plan to clean up the site. Families living near West Lake will now have an opportunity to review the proposal and make their voices heard. I will continue listening to them and working with the administration on a path forward that gives families the peace of mind they deserve."

Senator Claire McCaskill

"After years of pushing EPA, I'm pleased this is finally moving in the right direction."

St. Louis County Executive, Steve Stenger • "I am disappointed in the EPA's decision. I, like many residents, believe the EPA should have elected to excavate and remove all hazardous material from the West Lake Landfill. St. Louis County will continue to monitor water and air quality at the site. We will also do everything in our power to help address any serious long-term health and safety concerns of residents near the landfill."

Rep. Ann Wagner**Wagner Statement on the EPA's West Lake Proposal**

"After years of broken promises and inaction by previous administrations, Administrator Pruitt and the EPA are proposing a viable, permanent solution for cleaning up the West Lake Landfill. I commend them for delivering on this promise to our community and prioritizing Missourians who have lived in fear and uncertainty for too long. The general public will now have the opportunity to review this proposal and share their thoughts and concerns.

"Today's much anticipated announcement is a testament to the local leaders I have worked with since my first year in Congress to ensure the safety and well-being of the families surrounding the West Lake Landfill. Their tireless efforts have made this a top priority, and it is an honor to represent such a strong and committed community in Washington, D.C."

Rep. William Lacy Clay

"West Lake landfill cleanup is a huge victory for our long-suffering community and a major step towards environmental justice."

"As the first Member of Congress to call for the removal of nuclear waste from West Lake landfill, today's announcement by the EPA of a cleanup is a huge victory for our long-suffering community and it is a major step towards long-delayed environmental justice.

As I have said from the beginning, this nuclear waste, which dates back to the Manhattan Project, is a 75-year old problem. The United States government created this waste and we have a responsibility to clean it up.

I want to thank EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt for his leadership in helping reach this decision. And I especially want to salute the courage and sacrifice of Just Moms STL, the Missouri Coalition for the Environment and the many citizen environmental advocates whose dogged determination and faith have led us to this landmark decision that will keep our community safe."

Bridgeton Mayor Briggs

No public comments

St. Louis Mayor Krewson

St. Louis Mayor Lyda Krewson said she was briefed Thursday morning by several EPA officials, in part because the city-owned St. Louis Lambert International Airport is close to the site. She said the city will have to work out an agreement with the Department of Energy, Republic and other involved entities regarding "bird mitigation" to ensure that uncovering garbage at the landfill won't attract birds that could interfere with aircraft serving Lambert.

Governor Eric Greitens

"We're glad to see that Administrator Pruitt is tackling a tough problem that was ignored under the previous administration and keeping his promise to the people of Missouri."

St. Louis County Executive Steve Stenger

"I am disappointed in the EPA's decision. I, like many residents, believe the EPA should have elected to excavate and remove all hazardous material from West Lake Landfill. St. Louis County will continue to monitor water and air quality at the site. We will also do everything in our power to help address any serious long-term health and safety concerns of residents near the landfill."

WHAT POTENTIALLY RESPONSIBLE PARTIES ARE SAYING

Republic Services

- "pleased that the EPA has finally ended decades of study and again is issuing a proposed plan for the site."
- "From here, we will participate fully during the EPA's comment period, as well as engage vigorously with the EPA and the other PRPs to ensure that the final remedy performed is based on science, and is fully protective of human health, including onsite workers performing any remedy, the community, and the environment," the company said. "The path to beginning implementation of the final Record of Decision (ROD) could take years."

Cotter Corporation

Cotter, in a statement, said the company "will continue to work toward a science-based solution that protects the health and safety of the local community." – Post-Dispatch

Department of Energy

Did not release a statement

WHAT OTHER COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE SAYING

Ed Smith, Missouri Coalition for the Environment

- Thanks @EPAScottPruitt for recognizing only a cap is not a real solution. Now let's band together and get the @EPA to support full removal and offsite disposal during the public comment period! #WestLakeLandfill
- "People throughout St. Louis need to rise up and flood the EPA with public comments for full removal and offsite disposal unless they want to continue living alongside this radioactive threat." – KSDK
- "Partial removal is not acceptable. It means high levels of radioactivity will be left behind with the potential for water or airborne contamination into the future, creating unnecessary long-term risks to the St. Louis region," said Ed Smith, Policy Director with the Missouri Coalition for the Environment. "People throughout the St. Louis need to rise up and flood the EPA with public comments for full removal and offsite disposal unless they want to continue living alongside this radioactive threat." MCE Statement published on KMOX (CBS)

Dawn Chapman, Just Moms STL

- ALL *****We are calling an EMERGENCY MEETING for TONIGHT!! 6:30pm John Calvin Presbyterian 12567 Natural Bridge Rd, Bridgeton, MO 63044. We want to discuss this decision and help you all understand what this means! PLEASE BE THERE!!!!
- "Our goals, along with relocating the residents, have always been getting the radioactive waste out of the Missouri River floodplain and away from the threat of the underground fire," said non-profit group Just Moms STL in a statement. –KSDK
- "They're going to remove 70 percent of the waste," said Dawn Chapman, who leads the Just Moms nonprofit group. "The administrator is calling it 'excavation plus.'" -- St. Louis Public Radio
- Just Moms STL is hailing the partial removal proposal as a victory. More to come. – Eli Chen St. Louis Public Radio

Karen Nickel, Just Moms STL

- "We [the community] have been waiting over a quarter of a century for a safe and permanent solution to the radioactive waste at the landfill," said co-founder Karen Nickel in a statement. "A remedy at this site was long overdue. However, partial removal is neither safe nor permanent, and there is no mention of relocation of vulnerable families with children. One thing is certain, relocation options must happen before the first shovel of dirt is removed." -- KSDK

Several postings of the STL Post-Dispatch and Fox news articles

- HUGE WIN for you two! Congratulations and Thank you for your hard work and dedication to keeping everyone safe! ❤️ us God Bless you both and everyone else who persisted in this fight!
- Today is the day. In just a few short hours we'll know what the final proposed remedy for West Lake Landfill is. Years of hard work and dedication is coming down to one moment. Pray this community gets the long-awaited decision it deserves. My nerves are shot. #Relocation and #FullExcavation
- EPA's remediation plan must be implemented IMMEDIATELY, as the underground fire is approaching radioactive waste at West Lake Landfill. Residents in the St. Louis region simply do not have the luxury of five years. EPA must take action now.
- This site has been 27 years waiting for the EPA to clean it up. Finally, since we have a president who gets things done, we have an EPA director who gets things done. The decision was made yesterday to clean it up. #MAGA

- EPA plans to partially extract radioactive material at West Lake Landfill – <http://FOX2now.com>. The residents surrounding this landfill should be relocated!!
- West Lake Superfund. EPA has studied it for 27 years, studied it! Not cleaned it up! What happened at EPA? Bureaucracy! Pruitt has refocused EPA on their original mission. Well done!

FULL NEWS ARTICLES

Editorial: EPA's solution to West Lake will leave region exposed to nuclear dangers

By the Editorial Board 4:45 p.m.

http://www.stltoday.com/opinion/editorial/editorial-epa-s-solution-to-west-lake-will-leave-region/article_2c0771fb-bf91-5816-bc72-1603929e1a27.html

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt on Thursday offered up a Band-Aid solution for the nuclear waste buried at the West Lake Landfill, by far the most serious environmental hazard confronting the St. Louis region. Band-Aids won't cover the serious dangers posed by waste whose radioactive threat will last for many millennia.

Pruitt's decision to only partially excavate the West Lake site, where thousands of tons of Manhattan Project nuclear waste were dumped illegally in 1973, is better than allowing all the waste to continue sitting there percolating, minimally protected from seepage and migration. His plan would excavate only 16 feet down even though the waste is believed to go many times deeper.

Pruitt offered this curious response in remarks to the Post-Dispatch's Bryce Gray early Thursday: "The consideration here was timing, it was certainty, it was respect to human health that was being protected."

Timing? The region has waited four decades for a solution to this problem. Yes, we wanted action, but the goal was never to choose the quickest or most expedient solution.

Certainty? There's zero certainty in removing only some hazardous waste while leaving much more behind.

Respect for human health? An unlined nuclear landfill means the waste left behind will still be vulnerable to water seepage and off-site migration. The threat to human health will remain for centuries. The Missouri River is downhill only two miles away.

Pruitt's decision no doubt is good news for West Lake's owner, Republic Services, which faces huge potential remediation costs. The correct solution — full excavation and removal to an offsite facility designed for long-term nuclear-waste storage — would have cost \$695 million. Pruitt's chosen solution will cost about \$236 million.

Republic's advocates have long pressed for a cheaper solution that involves leaving the waste intact but permanently capped to minimize exposure to above-ground elements. Republic said in a

statement that it “is pleased that the EPA has finally ended decades of study and again is issuing a proposed plan for the site.”

Others aren’t so pleased. “Partial removal is not acceptable. It means high levels of radioactivity will be left behind with the potential for water or airborne contamination into the future, creating unnecessary long-term risks to the St. Louis region,” said Ed Smith, policy director with the Missouri Coalition for the Environment.

Pruitt had many options, and our worst fear was that he would make the most business-friendly, environmentally hostile choice, as he has previously. A partial solution is better than the buck-passing non-solution the region has had to tolerate since the 1970s.

Once the excavation begins, which could still be years away, it’s possible the EPA will better understand the magnitude of the problem and rethink its decision. St. Louis-area residents should accept nothing short of a full cleanup.

P-D STORY WAS UPDATED AT 5:50 P.M.

EPA wants to do partial excavation of contaminants at radioactive West Lake Landfill Superfund site

By Bryce Gray St. Louis Post-Dispatch

In a long-awaited decision that appears to be a compromise, the Environmental Protection Agency on Thursday recommended partial excavation of the West Lake Landfill in Bridgeton to remove radioactive waste linked to the Manhattan Project.

The EPA said the proposed remedy, which it calls "Excavation Plus," is expected to take five years to implement and will remove the "majority" of radioactivity by digging to a depth of about 16 feet, while installing an engineered cover system for long-term protection.

"The consideration here was timing, it was certainty, it was respect to human health that was being protected," EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt told the Post-Dispatch in a phone call Thursday morning. Radioactive waste was dumped illegally at West Lake in the early 1970s, but the landfill wasn't placed on the Superfund National Priorities List until 1990.

Today, the landfill is widely regarded as one of the most high-profile — and complex — Superfund sites in the country, and in December was named one of 21 nationwide to be targeted for “immediate, intense action” by the EPA Superfund Task Force.

Though area residents and others waited patiently for a cleanup strategy to finally emerge, for years many have pushed fervently for a single, maximally protective option: full excavation and off-site removal of the landfill’s contaminants — the most thorough and expensive option the EPA had considered.

Meanwhile, companies such as Republic Services — which operates the landfill through a subsidiary and is one of the entities responsible for funding the site’s remediation — strongly opposed calls to excavate the landfill and instead supported a “capping” strategy as a preferred remedial action. Other entities potentially on the hook for the cleanup costs include the U.S. Department of Energy

and Chicago-based energy company Exelon Corp., which formerly owned uranium processor Cotter Corp.

The proposal announced Thursday falls in between those wishes of the most vocal community members and industrial interests.

"A cap is not sufficient to protect the health of the citizens in the area," Pruitt said.

Other options weighed by the EPA included an enhanced capping strategy that would meet federal standards for uranium radiation control, a full excavation alternative with disposal of radioactive material in an on-site storage cell, or varying degrees of partial excavation. Another partial excavation scenario would have removed material at any depth until a certain concentration of radioactive contamination was reached.

The options ranged in cost from estimates of \$75 million for the basic capping remedy, to \$695 million for full excavation combined with off-site disposal. The selected remedy is projected to cost \$236 million and will include the enhanced cap, EPA officials said.

A feasibility study released in the months leading up to the proposal estimated that the 16-foot partial excavation strategy would remove 27 percent of "radiologically impacted material" from the site. With the announcement Thursday, however, agency officials said that removing that material would address the bulk — about 70 percent — of the landfill's total radioactivity. Pruitt said the agency would take public comment to help determine whether the material is eventually disposed of in on-site or off-site containment cells.

Some in the community who have followed the issue said that the proposed measure does not go far enough.

"Partial removal is not acceptable," said Ed Smith, policy director with the Missouri Coalition for the Environment, in a statement. "It means high levels of radioactivity will be left behind with the potential for water or airborne contamination into the future, creating unnecessary long-term risks to the St. Louis region."

Others were more supportive of the proposal and said it marks an "encouraging" change of direction from the agency.

"The major victory is we heard a lot of acknowledgment from EPA that this waste is dangerous and needs to be removed from your community," said Dawn Chapman, a co-founder of Just Moms STL, a group of resident activists focusing on the landfill that contains radioactive waste. "This is a far cry from the conversation that was happening five years ago."

Chapman was among a group of concerned citizens who spent Thursday morning discussing the proposal in person with agency officials, including Albert Kelly, a top adviser to Pruitt and the chairman of the Superfund Task Force.

"There's no doubt from what he said that they'd been lobbied hard to make a different decision," Chapman said. "Overall, I feel like we're in good hands right now."

Pruitt said that although deeper radioactive contamination occurs 40 to 80 feet beneath the landfill's surface, it does not pose a public health risk and, according to agency technicians, removing it could possibly trigger a new subsurface fire.

"As we looked at going deeper than we are now, we had to ask the question: Is it necessary to protect health and does it pose other risks and dangers?" said Pruitt. "We absolutely, through this process, thought through all those options and believe we've gone down exactly the amount of depth we need to go to achieve protection and also not to create new issues and new concerns for people in the community."

He said he was also concerned by the extra decade that deeper excavations were expected to take for completion.

"The proposal that I saw with that was around 14 to 15 years, and that's something that I thought was simply not acceptable," Pruitt said. "It did not provide that kind of certainty to the community." Reactions from area politicians ranged from disappointment that full removal of contamination was not pursued to relief that the EPA was, at last, advancing toward a plan of action at the site.

Rep. Lacy Clay, D-St. Louis, called the decision "a huge victory for our long-suffering community." Rep. Ann Wagner, R-Ballwin, applauded the EPA for proposing "a viable, permanent solution." But St. Louis County Executive Steve Stenger said he was disappointed in the EPA's proposal, saying the agency "should have elected to excavate and remove all hazardous material from the West Lake Landfill."

St. Louis Mayor Lyda Krewson said she was briefed Thursday morning by several EPA officials, in part because the city-owned St. Louis Lambert International Airport is close to the site. She said the city will have to work out an agreement with the Department of Energy, Republic and other involved entities regarding "bird mitigation" to ensure that uncovering garbage at the landfill won't attract birds that could interfere with aircraft serving Lambert.

Manhattan Project legacy

The radioactive contamination at the site traces its origins to the development of nuclear weapons through the Manhattan Project in World War II, which used uranium processed at the Mallinckrodt Chemical Works factory north of downtown St. Louis. In 1973, about 8,700 tons of leached barium sulfate from the weapons program was "mixed with approximately 38,000 tons of contaminated soil and used to cover trash being dumped" at the landfill, according to the EPA.

The process of settling on a cleanup strategy also stretches back decades. After years of analysis, a decision to place a cap over the landfill was seemingly reached in a 2008 "record of decision" from the EPA, before public outcry pressured the agency to re-evaluate. That record of decision had not regarded groundwater as a potential pathway for contamination, although the unlined landfill rests above a porous layer of gravel in the flood plain of the Missouri River.

In the years to follow, the site took on new levels of notoriety — and public concern — when a smoldering underground fire was detected in the adjacent Bridgeton Landfill in 2010. The fire, officially referred to as a "subsurface smoldering event," is still burning a couple hundred yards away from areas of known radioactive contamination.

With Thursday's newly proposed remedy, the agency has now taken a major step — perhaps the biggest step — toward producing another record of decision for the site. By Feb. 6, when a formal notice is published and supporting documents that guided the decision will be available, the proposal will be subject to a period of public comment before any decision is finalized. People will be able to submit comments by mail, email, or online or in person at a March 6 meeting in Bridgeton. "I do want to emphasize this is a proposal," Pruitt said. "We may learn things throughout this decision that inform this process."

That process is likely to attract a storm of comments from both citizens and the entities paying for cleanup — formally identified as "Potentially Responsible Parties," or PRPs. Depending on the amount of feedback received, that final decision could still be months away, or beyond.

"The path to beginning implementation of the final record of decision could take years," Republic Services said in a statement on Thursday. "From here, we will participate fully during the EPA's comment period, as well as engage vigorously with the EPA and the other PRPs to ensure that the final remedy performed is based on science, and is fully protective of human health."

A spokesperson for the Department of Energy did not respond to a request for comment. Cotter, in a statement, said the company "will continue to work toward a science-based solution that protects the health and safety of the local community."

Community members are also preparing to make their voices heard in the comment period, including those still advocating for full excavation of the site's contamination.

"If people around St. Louis agree that while they're digging, they should get it all, hopefully we get a massive public comment," Smith said.

Chapman said that while EPA officials noted they are confident there is sufficient scientific evidence to fend off challenges to the proposal, she has some concern about well-funded opposition hindering it from crossing the finish line.

"There's a lot that this community still faces with this site," Chapman said. "We have an even bigger battle now to make sure this happens."

Sidebars in Post-Dispatch article: ELECTED OFFICIALS REACT

From effusive praise to disappointment, the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed cleanup strategy for the radioactive West Lake Landfill Superfund site in Bridgeton attracted a wide range of reactions from area elected officials. Here are the statements they released about the announcement from the Environmental Protection Agency.

U.S. Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo. • "West Lake families have been tireless advocates for the health and safety of their children and community. They should not have had to wait 27 years for a plan to clean up the site, especially when they were promised action under the previous administration. I thank Administrator (Scott) Pruitt for making West Lake a priority and moving quickly to offer a plan to

clean up the site. Families living near West Lake will now have an opportunity to review the proposal and make their voices heard. I will continue listening to them and working with the administration on a path forward that gives families the peace of mind they deserve.”

Rep. William Lacy Clay, D-St. Louis • “As the first Member of Congress to call for the removal of nuclear waste from West Lake landfill, today’s announcement by the EPA of a cleanup is a huge victory for our long-suffering community and it is a major step towards long-delayed environmental justice.

“As I have said from the beginning, this nuclear waste, which dates back to the Manhattan Project, is a 75-year old problem. The United States government created this waste and we have a responsibility to clean it up.

“I want to thank EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt for his leadership in helping reach this decision. And I especially want to salute the courage and sacrifice of Just Moms STL, the Missouri Coalition for the Environment and the many citizen environmental advocates whose dogged determination and faith have led us to this landmark decision that will keep our community safe.”

Gov. Eric Greitens • “We’re glad to see that Administrator Pruitt is tackling a tough problem that was ignored under the previous administration and keeping his promise to the people of Missouri.”

U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo. • “After years of pushing EPA, I’m pleased this is finally moving in the right direction.”

St. Louis County Executive, Steve Stenger • “I am disappointed in the EPA’s decision. I, like many residents, believe the EPA should have elected to excavate and remove all hazardous material from the West Lake Landfill. St. Louis County will continue to monitor water and air quality at the site. We will also do everything in our power to help address any serious long-term health and safety concerns of residents near the landfill.”

Rep. Ann Wagner, R-Ballwin • “After years of broken promises and inaction by previous administrations, Administrator Pruitt and the EPA are proposing a viable, permanent solution for cleaning up the West Lake Landfill. I commend them for delivering on this promise to our community and prioritizing Missourians who have lived in fear and uncertainty for too long. The general public will now have the opportunity to review this proposal and share their thoughts and concerns.

“Today’s much anticipated announcement is a testament to the local leaders I have worked with since my first year in Congress to ensure the safety and well-being of the families surrounding the West Lake Landfill. Their tireless efforts have made this a top priority, and it is an honor to represent such a strong and committed community in Washington, D.C.”

(sidebar in Post-Dispatch article)

TIMELINE

1973 • B&K Construction, a contractor for uranium producer Cotter Corp., dumps uranium-processing waste at West Lake Landfill without authorization.

August 2005 • The Bridgeton Landfill stops accepting waste to reduce the potential for birds to interfere with operations at nearby Lambert-St. Louis International Airport.

June 2008 • Republic Services agrees to buy Allied Waste, entering the St. Louis market and taking ownership of the landfills.

December 2010 • Republic reports underground smoldering at the landfill.

February 2013 • The Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) declares odors generated by the smoldering waste a nuisance and orders Republic to pay for air sampling.

March 2013 • Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster sues Republic, accusing the company of violating state environmental laws. An agreement, reached in May 2013, outlines a plan of action that includes capping the landfill by early September.

September 2013 • Republic agrees to build a fire break between the Bridgeton and West Lake landfills to alleviate concern that the reaction will spread to radioactive contamination in West Lake.

August 2014 • Republic Services is nearly finished with a wastewater plant. A leachate collection system, a gas extraction system and a cap and flare system to reduce odors and gases are in place.

September 2014 • DNR consultant warns that fire is approaching the northern area of the landfill, which is adjacent to West Lake, and is not under control, refuting Republic's assurances.

January 2015 • Another DNR consultant warns of air intrusion and the possibility of a subsurface fire, or the precursor to one, in "close proximity" to the radioactive waste in the West Lake Landfill.

May 2015 • The EPA begins testing for radioactive waste it now believes may be in the northern edge of the Bridgeton Landfill, outside of the restricted West Lake area.

August 2015 • DNR asks for more measures to control the landfill fire and keep it from reaching the northern portion of the landfill.

September 2015 • Koster releases expert reports indicating that the fire is moving closer to the radioactive waste and that radiological contamination was found in some off-site vegetation.

October 2015 • St. Louis County releases an emergency plan and school districts send letters home, prompting widespread concern. Construction on the barrier from West Lake, awaiting approval from the Environmental Protection Agency, still has not started.

August 2016: Regional EPA officials say they hope to identify a proposed remedy by the end of the year. They later announced that the decision had been postponed.

December 2017: Before a U.S. House Energy and Commerce subcommittee, new EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said the agency would announce a cleanup proposal at West Lake in January. The following day, the site was named one of 21 Superfund sites in the country to be targeted for "immediate, intense action," based on the recommendations of a Superfund Task Force.

January 2018: The pending lawsuit between the state of Missouri and Republic Services — which had been set for a jury trial in March — is stayed by a court order seeking to give the parties additional

time to work toward a settlement. The order said a new trial would be set if a settlement cannot be finalized.

February 2018: The EPA proposes partially excavating the site's "radiologically impacted material," to a depth of 16 feet. The approach would be paired with installation of a cap designed to meet certain standards for containing uranium radiation.

EPA announces plan for suburban St. Louis landfill cleanup

By Jim Salter and Heather Hollingsworth | AP February 1 at 6:04 PM

https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/epa-announces-plan-for-suburban-st-louis-landfill-cleanup/2018/02/01/5a324c58-0797-11e8-aa61-f3391373867e_story.html?utm_term=.6ec3b4b914d3

ST. LOUIS — The Environmental Protection Agency plans to clean up radioactive waste at a suburban St. Louis landfill by removing most of the Cold War-era nuclear material and capping the rest, the agency said Thursday.

The announcement of the \$236 million project ends years of wrangling over what to do with radioactive material illegally dumped more than 40 years ago at West Lake Landfill in Bridgeton, material that sits dangerously close to a smoldering underground fire at an adjacent landfill. An earlier remediation plan to cap the entire radioactive site with rock, clay and soil, announced a decade ago, was scrapped amid strong local opposition.

Under the new plan, about 70 percent of the worst contamination will be removed. The rest will be contained within a permanent cap that will provide “additional protection to the community over the long term,” EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said in a news release.

The project is expected to take about five years, though it isn’t yet clear when it would start. The landfill has been on the EPA’s Superfund list since 1990.

Karen Nickel, who lives less than two miles from the landfill and co-founded the activist group Just Moms STL, said it’s a good plan but long overdue.

“We view this as a victory for this community, that EPA has now acknowledged this is dangerous and it needs to be taken away,” Nickel said. “It’s been a long, hard battle.”

U.S. Sen. Roy Blunt, a Missouri Republican, released a statement saying families “should not have had to wait 27 years for a plan to clean up the site.” Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill said she was pleased “this is finally moving in the right direction.”

But Ed Smith, policy director for the Missouri Coalition for the Environment, said partial removal “is not acceptable.”

“It means high levels of radioactivity will be left behind with the potential for water or airborne contamination into the future, creating unnecessary long-term risks to the St. Louis region,” Smith said in a statement.

The cleanup cost is expected to be split between the U.S. Department of Energy, which oversaw nuclear weapons projects during the Cold War; the energy company Exelon, which formerly owned Cotter Corp., a uranium processor; and Bridgeton Landfill Inc. and Rock Road Industries, two entities of Republic Services, the company that acquired the landfill through a merger several years ago. Republic Services said it would work to “ensure that the final remedy performed is based on science” and “fully protective of human health.” A statement from the company said it could take years for the work to begin.

The EPA has drawn criticism for coming up with a plan since the 2008 proposal was discarded. U.S. Rep. Ann Wagner, a St. Louis County Republican, was among those who called for the Army Corps of Engineers to take over cleanup from the EPA. The corps agreed to work alongside EPA on the project, but the EPA continued to oversee it.

West Lake Landfill was contaminated in the 1970s after a contractor illegally dumped uranium processing waste. Uranium was processed in St. Louis for the Manhattan Project, the top-secret government program that produced the first nuclear weapons.

Adding to the worry is the underground smoldering at the adjacent Bridgeton Landfill, also owned by Republic Services. The cause is unclear, but the company has spent more than \$200 million to both contain the smoldering and to reduce a significant odor caused by it. A lawsuit over the odor filed by 34 nearby residents was settled in 2016. Terms were not disclosed.

The EPA has said all along that neighboring residents faced no risk from radiation. The agency’s testing has found no evidence that radioactive material has migrated beyond the landfill.

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources in July found radioactive contaminants in stormwater just outside the landfill. But the EPA said its own testing showed “no offsite unacceptable public health risks” in the stormwater.

Hollingsworth reported from Kansas City, Missouri.

EPA Sets Plan to Remove Radioactive Waste from Missouri Dump
West Lake landfill is one of more than 1,300 sites in the Superfund program

Wall Street Journal

By Timothy Puko

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/epa-sets-plan-to-remove-radioactive-waste-from-missouri-dump-1517508064>

The Environmental Protection Agency plans to try to remove radioactive waste from a Missouri dump as part of a widespread effort to speed up how the government deals with the country’s most toxic sites.

The move, which is among the agency’s most urgent priorities, would end years of dispute over how to deal with thousands of tons of factory waste from the nuclear-weapons program buried for decades at West Lake landfill near St. Louis. Under the agency’s proposal, most of the dump’s

radioactive contamination would be excavated and a permanent cap would be installed over the rest. It would take five years and cost \$236 million, according to the plan.

West Lake is one of more than 1,300 sites in the Superfund program, which manages places highly contaminated by lead, asbestos, radiation and other pollutants that can cause cancer, birth defects and other health and environmental harms. Major progress on that work could become a legacy-shifting achievement for a regulator now known largely for making friendlier relationships with industry and dismantling programs from the previous administration under President Barack Obama. President Donald Trump has pushed to rollback Obama-era rules designed to fight climate change and water pollution, among others, to help the energy industry and other businesses.

Mr. Pruitt has also argued the EPA could be more productive by focusing more on longstanding programs and problems, especially superfund cleanups.

The EPA first listed West Lake in 1990, but has been unable to come to a solution for the site. It decided in 2008 to leave the waste in place and cover it with a protective cap. But local residents protested, demanding the waste be hauled away and leading the EPA to reassess its plan. Some also accused the agency of pressuring an independent review board to soften challenges of an EPA plan. West Lake's owner, Republic Services Inc., will have to pay for the cleanup, the agency said. A subsidiary of the company involved with the site said it "is pleased that the EPA has finally ended decades of study and again is issuing a proposed plan for the site." It said it plans to work with the EPA, but that it could be years before the proposal gets finalized and the cleanup starts.

The agency's proposal suggests the best options are to put the excavated waste into a cell on site or ship it away to another site, Mr. Pruitt said. He noted another site about 20 miles away where similar waste is encased in a steel and concrete cell that can safely hold the waste for 1,000 years. The agency will be taking public comments on the proposal for the next 45 to 75 days and will consider those comments in deciding where the waste ultimately goes, Mr. Pruitt added.

The EPA and Republic have said their radiation sampling hasn't shown evidence of the site posing a threat to the public. But one study has shown waste likely has migrated off-site and smoldering garbage buried in another part of the landfill may be also threatening to heat the radioactive waste. The Journal wrote about the West Lake controversy as part of a 2013 series on the legacy of the nuclear-weapons program.

"The EPA has lost credibility within the community, and left parents living in fear for their children's health and safety," Missouri Republican Sen. Roy Blunt had said during a 2016 effort to strip the agency of its oversight.

To help improve the Superfund program, Mr. Pruitt created a new list of sites in December—even though the program already had a priorities list—to highlight 21 sites in need of "immediate and intense attention." That list includes West Lake. While critics have called the move political posturing, Mr. Pruitt has framed it as a way to renew emphasis and urgency on the program.

He has repeatedly listed Superfund sites as a priority, especially in 2018. He told the Journal his goal is for the agency to come to decisions on nearly 30 sites this year. Workers from the program have been in his office to thank him for raising issues that have been dormant for 15 to 20 years while

climate change and other issues have taken priority, Mr. Pruitt said in a previous interview with the Journal.

"I think this agency for years has speculated about harm that may be happening you know a hundred years from now rather than on what's happening in their own backyard," Mr. Pruitt said.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt has promised to put renewed attention on resolving these threats, some of which have lingered for decades. He said the West Lake decision demonstrates his vision for the program.

"This sends a message that we're actually going to get results," Mr. Pruitt said in an interview with The Wall Street Journal. "Frankly it's just what we ought to be doing."

EPA orders cleanup at St. Louis nuclear waste site. What does it mean for the nation's other toxic messes?

By Brady Dennis February 1 at 11:47 AM

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2018/02/01/epa-orders-cleanup-at-st-louis-nuclear-waste-site-what-does-it-mean-for-the-nations-other-toxic-messes/?utm_term=.b58eeb13be55

The Environmental Protection Agency on Thursday ordered a long-awaited cleanup of a Superfund site northwest of St. Louis, saying residents living near the landfill contaminated with World War II-era nuclear waste deserve action after waiting 27 years for federal regulators to issue a decision. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's decision to partially excavate tons of radioactive material from the West Lake Landfill over the next five years — at an expected cost of \$236 million to the liable companies — goes beyond a 2008 solution proposed by the George W. Bush administration to merely cover and monitor the waste.

"The people of the St. Louis region deserve clarity and answers," Pruitt said in a statement Thursday. "I promised them an answer, and today I am making good on that commitment." He added that he sought a remedy at the controversial site that would "protect public health, comply with the law, and hold potentially responsible parties accountable."

Thursday's announcement also was intended to be Exhibit A in demonstrating Pruitt's commitment to revitalizing the agency's Superfund program, which includes the nation's most polluted sites, by streamlining and accelerating cleanups. But it underscored how few Superfund sites have simple answers, though nearly all of them generate intense emotions.

"We were hoping for full, 100 percent excavation. But we know that would be difficult to accomplish," said Dawn Chapman, co-founder of Just Moms, an activist group that has long pushed for an extensive excavation with relocation of families near the landfill.

She said her group views the outcome as a hard-fought victory, but one that is far from guaranteed given the public comment and cleanup process likely to unfold over years. "We have to stay here and watch it and see it through," she said. "I look ahead, and I see these other big battles coming. We're not going to blink, because you can't ... We will continue to fight to get even more [radioactive waste] removed."

Pruitt's decision goes farther than the action sought by Republic Services and Exelon Corp., whose subsidiaries are responsible for the cleanup at West Lake along with the federal Department of Energy. The companies have argued that the agency's own science shows capping the waste is the safer option and that excavating the toxic material could create serious public health risks.

While the \$236 million price tag of the EPA plan is significantly higher than what the firms hoped to spend, it is well below the cost, projected at nearly \$700 million, of a full excavation.

In a statement, Republic Services said it was "pleased that the EPA has finally ended decades of study and again is issuing a proposed plan for the site." But the company cautioned that a final decision could take years.

What remains to be seen is whether the decision on West Lake represents how Pruitt is likely to approach other Superfund sites or it is merely an outlier.

In recent months, Pruitt has promised aggressive Superfund cleanups and made a public show of butting heads with corporate interests — something he has rarely done on other issues during his first year at the EPA. Yet aside from creating a list of 21 targets needing "immediate and intense" attention, as well as forming a special task force to recommend ways to expedite cleanups and "reduce the burden" on companies involved, Pruitt has explained very little about how he intends to deal with the hundreds of other toxic waste sites around the country.

"What's the plan for the other sites that aren't on [Pruitt's] priority list?" asked Nancy Loeb, director of the Environmental Advocacy Center at Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law. She said Pruitt's decision at West Lake might be "a positive step" but added, "It raises the question of whether Superfund is being used to showcase a few projects without actually doing more to clean up contamination at all 1,300 [Superfund] sites."

Meanwhile, the Trump administration has proposed cutting the Superfund program's budget by 30 percent, or about \$330 million annually. And while there are responsible companies that the EPA can legally force to pay for cleanups at many of the locations Pruitt has mentioned, many others are "orphan" sites where the polluters have gone bankrupt or are no longer legally liable for remedying the problem. At those, the federal government still shoulders most of the tab — and the pot of available dollars keeps shrinking.

"I am concerned about orphan sites across the country in the Superfund portfolio," Pruitt told lawmakers on Capitol Hill this week. "I think there are greater challenges beyond money. But money matters in that side of our responsibilities."

Pruitt highlighted West Lake early in his tenure at the EPA.

"The past administration honestly just didn't pay attention to [it]," he insisted on a local radio show in April. "We're going to get things done at West Lake. The days of talking are over." In May, Pruitt took to television to say a plan was coming "very soon."

Eight months have passed since then. But families in the shadow of West Lake, which was added to the Superfund program in 1990, are no strangers to waiting. The site's 200 acres include not just the

radioactive waste illegally dumped in 1973 but also a former sanitary landfill. Decomposing trash is smoldering underground in what scientists call a “subsurface burning event.” There have been ongoing concerns about the fire reaching the radioactive waste, though the companies there have taken numerous steps to prevent that.

Over the years, local residents have complained of quality-of-life and health problems, from a periodic stench in the air to anecdotal tales of cancers, autoimmune disorders and miscarriages in adjacent neighborhoods. At the same time, numerous air, water and soil tests from the EPA and other government agencies have shown no link to such conditions.

Pruitt’s plan will now be open for a period of public comment before it is finalized.

West Lake Landfill: EPA proposal is latest chapter in long, troubled history

BY: Lindsay Toler

<http://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/west-lake-landfill-epa-proposal-latest-chapter-long-troubled-history#stream/0>

The Environmental Protection Agency proposal to partially remove nuclear weapons waste from a northwest St. Louis County landfill marks a major shift in approach to a problem that’s plagued residents for decades.

Since 1990, federal officials have either passed the buck on remediating West Lake Landfill or proposed building a cap over the site, which does little to prevent the tons of radioactive waste from contaminating groundwater.

On Thursday, EPA head Scott Pruitt announced his “Excavation Plus” proposal to remove much of the waste, which is about 600 feet from an underground fire in the adjacent Bridgeton Landfill, and permanently cover the rest.

Here's a guide to our coverage.

Pruitt has publicly criticized previous presidential administrations for failing to decide on a remedy for West Lake Landfill. He’s repeatedly named the landfill in interviews with national news outlets as an example of governmental delay and ineptitude.

“It’s taken 28 years just to make a decision — not clean it up, not remediate it, just decide how we’re going to do it,” Pruitt said about West Lake Landfill in a [CBS News interview](#) that aired Jan. 18. “That’s unacceptable.”

In Thursday’s announcement, Pruitt said his response to West Lake is representative of his approach to the entire Superfund program.

[Read more about the EPA proposal](#)

“I am pleased to announce a proposed remedy that will strategically excavate and remove within five years all the radioactive material that poses a risk to public health,” Pruitt said in a statement.

Decades of problems

After purchasing chemicals that came from Mallinckrodt Chemical Works’ nuclear weapons research, a contractor for Cotter Corporation illegally dumped contaminated uranium processing waste at

West Lake Landfill in 1973. Today, the waste remains buried in the unlined quarry where it is exposed to groundwater. The federal government put West Lake low on a National Priorities List, making it a Superfund site, in 1990, and it's climbed the ranks since then. But there's never been consensus for a remedy.

In December 2010, officials discovered that an underground fire at adjacent Bridgeton Landfill is smoldering at temperatures as high as 300 Fahrenheit. Nearby residents [first noticed an increase in smelly fumes](#) from the landfill burning early in the spring of 2012. Since then, air sampling has occasionally detected unsafe concentrations of toxic gas.

No one knows for sure if the underground fire will meet the contaminated waste, which is about 600 feet away, or what would happen if it did. The lack of certainty concerns residents, especially after nearby schools alerted parents of emergency plans in case it happened during schools hours. Read more in our story for NPR from 2015: [Landfill Fire Threatens Nuclear Waste Site Outside St. Louis](#)

Read more

[Confused about Bridgeton, West Lake landfills? Here's what you should know](#)

This FAQ guide is a good place to start if you're new to the issues at West Lake and Bridgeton landfills. We first published it in 2014 to answer questions about the north St. Louis County complex, where an underground fire has smoldered near World War II-era nuclear weapons waste for years; then we updated the FAQ in 2015 when new warnings from federal officials caused awareness of the landfills — along with fear, confusion and misinformation — to spike.

[Who are the players in the West Lake and Bridgeton landfill sagas?](#)

Catch up on who's who with this handy breakdown and infographic. (Note: The story is from 2015, so the State & Regional Officials section is a bit out of date.)

[St. Louis On the Air: Major Players Discuss Bridgeton and West Lake Landfills](#)

In 2014, on "St. Louis on the Air," host Don Marsh moderated a conversation on the landfills with St. Louis Public Radio's then-science reporter Véronique LaCapra along with Ed Smith, safe energy director at the Missouri Coalition for the Environment, Russ Knocke, public affairs director for the company that owns both landfills, and Dawn Chapman, a resident who lives near the landfills.

We've also organized previous coverage by topic:

- [West Lake Landfill](#)
- [Bridgeton Landfill](#)

Catch up

The last time West Lake Landfill was in the news was October 2017, when Albert Kelly, senior adviser to EPA administrator Scott Pruitt and the head of the agency's Superfund Task Force, came to Bridgeton for a forum with residents and announced that the EPA would conduct further testing for radioactive contamination. Since then, the EPA released a list of priority projects that includes West Lake. The agency said it would release a remedy proposal by January 2018.

Keep reading: [EPA plans to conduct further testing for radioactive waste at West Lake Landfill](#)

What to watch

- HBO will screen a documentary about West Lake Landfill called *Atomic Homefront* on Feb. 12. You can learn more about the documentary from "St. Louis on the Air" with director

Rebecca Cammisa: [HBO's 'Atomic Homefront' explores the citizen activist movement around nuclear waste in St. Louis.](#)

- [The Safe Side of the Fence](#) is a documentary that explores first-hand accounts of former employees of Mallinckrodt and residents who live near sites contaminated by Manhattan Project waste. Also on SLOTA, Marsh interviews director and St. Louis native Tony West: [New documentary explores St. Louis' connection to nuclear waste contamination.](#)

Buy out

Frustrated by delay at the federal level, Missouri lawmakers have filed bills to buy homes affected by West Lake contamination so families can move to a safer neighborhood without incurring debt or passing the problem along to the next homebuyer. Despite bipartisan cooperation, all attempts have failed.

Read more:

- [State Senate passes bill to buy homes near West Lake Landfill](#)
- [Missouri lawmakers demand passing bill to buyout residents near West Lake Landfill](#)
- [Failure of bill to buy out homes near West Lake Landfill leaves Bridgeton residents dismayed](#)

Health concerns

People who live near the landfill or who were exposed to the contamination have described many serious health complaints on top of chronic stress. Some residents have found contamination in their homes.

Read more:

- [Fighting for answers, residents near West Lake landfill suffer chronic stress](#)
- [Former McDonnell Douglas workers, residents file suit over radiation exposure](#)
- [EPA to clean radioactive contamination found on private property next to West Lake Landfill](#)

EPA delay

The EPA is responsible for fixing the problems at West Lake, but so far there has been more confusion than progress. Residents have unsuccessfully lobbied to transfer responsibility for the site to the Army Corps of Engineers. The relationship between the EPA and St. Louis residents grew strained under President Obama, but President Trump's overhaul of the agency has brought a renewed focus on Superfund sites like West Lake.

EPA proposes partial removal of West Lake Landfill nuclear waste

BY: ELI CHEN & KAE M. PETRIN

<http://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/epa-proposes-partial-removal-west-lake-landfill-nuclear-waste#stream/0>

The Environmental Protection Agency has decided on a partial removal of World War II-era radioactive waste at the West Lake Landfill, in northwest St. Louis County.

The EPA proposed a remedy that would remove “the majority of the radioactive material” and construct a cover system to “best protect the community of Bridgeton over the long term,” the agency said today in a news release.

"The people of the St. Louis region deserve clarity and answers with respect to the remediation of the West Lake Landfill," Scott Pruitt, EPA administrator, said. "I promised them an answer, and today I am making good on that commitment."

Residents who live near the site praised the proposal. They said EPA officials informed them that the plan would remove much of the waste, which is about 600 feet from an underground smoking fire at the Bridgeton Landfill.

"They're going to remove 70 percent of the waste," said Dawn Chapman, who leads the Just Moms nonprofit group. "The administrator is calling it 'excavation plus.'"

The proposal should take five years and \$236 million to implement. EPA officials said that the remedy would decrease odors, limit the chance of a new underground smoldering fire, and protect workers on the site.

The public will be allowed to comment on the agency's proposals before administrators make a final decision. Landfill owner Republic Services noted that excavation could take years to begin.

Republic Services said in a release that it is "pleased that the EPA has finally ended decades of study and again is issuing a proposed plan for the site" and committed to participating in the EPA's decision.

The decision is the latest chapter in a longer history for the landfill, which the federal government deemed safe in the 1970s — only to discover later that the pollutants could be leaching into groundwater and contaminating nearby residents' homes.

Nuclear waste has sat at the site since its former owner, Cotter Corporation, dumped it there in 1973.

The West Lake Landfill has been on the EPA's National Priorities List since 1990. According to Republic Services, the site has awaited a remediation plan for more than 40 years.

Learn more about the landfills' histories:

After residents expressed concern about the site in 2010, the EPA reopened its review of the landfill. Waste management company Republic Services then discovered an underground fire in another landfill that it owns in nearby Bridgeton. It's not clear if the underground fire will meet the contaminated waste, or what would happen if it did.

In recent years, residents have complained that that exposure to the radioactive waste at the West Lake Landfill has put them at risk of developing cancer and other serious illnesses. They also worry that the fumes from the underground fire at the Bridgeton Landfill have caused asthma and other respiratory problems.

Scott Pruitt is Getting back to core mission of the agency

<http://video.foxbusiness.com/v/5724013018001/?#sp=show-clips>

Feb. 01, 2018 - EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt on green mandates and efforts to clean up a landfill in St. Louis, Missouri.

(no text, need to watch the video of the interview)

EPA announces plan to remove Manhattan Project nuclear waste from Missouri site

BY MIRANDA GREEN - 02/01/18 10:33

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/371792-epa-announces-plans-to-remove-nuclear-waste-from-decades-old-site-in>

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced new plans Thursday to partially remove toxic waste from a decades-old nuclear site in Missouri, a decision that mirrors Administrator Scott Pruitt's vow to make Superfunds a 2018 priority.

The proposed remedy, would both remove a majority of the radioactive waste linked to the Manhattan Project at the West Lake Landfill and construct a cap over the area. The EPA says the project is expected to cost \$236 million and take five years to implement.

"This decision demonstrates my vision for the Superfund program. Through leadership and responsiveness to communities, we will make decisions that protect public health, comply with the law, and hold potentially responsible parties accountable," Pruitt said in a statement.

For Bridgeton, Mo., residents who have been fighting to have the nuclear waste removed since the site was identified in 1970, the decision will be a welcome relief amidst public health and safety concerns. Until now the nuclear waste at Westlake has been contained on site and the surrounding area has been routinely monitored for ground water contamination.

The site has been on the Superfund National Priorities List since 1990. In December, the EPA named the sites one of 21 pinpointed for "immediate, intense action" by the Super Fund Task Force. The EPA says that, depending on public feedback, the radioactive waste will either be shipped to an off-site disposal facility or placed in an on-site disposal cell.

In October, the EPA announced approval of a clean up plan at the San Jacinto Waste Pits in Texas. The cleanup plan according to EPA would include installing engineering controls and excavating almost 212,000 cubic yards of dioxin contaminated material for disposal. Some waste would have to be left behind. The remedy's estimated cost was pinned at \$115 million.

In connection with the San Jacinto clean up plan, Pruitt also announced his administration's specific focus on Superfund sites, saying in a statement, "EPA is prioritizing Superfund clean-up by making decisions in a decisive, timely manner."

Speaking to Fox Business Network Thursday morning, Pruitt said the American people are upset about his leadership at EPA because they don't know him very well.

"Why would they be upset with removing a Superfund site in St. Louis, Missouri?" he asked. "That's the issue here... should the agency be used as a weapon? Or to do good things like in Missouri?"

EPA plans to partially remove toxic waste from Waste Lake Landfill Superfund site

PUBLISHED: 8:58 AM CST, February 1, 2018

<https://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/news/2018/02/01/epa-plans-to-partially-remove-toxic-waste-from.html>

The Environmental Protection Agency has announced a final remedy to partially remove toxic waste from the West Lake Landfill in North County, a move community members have been expecting for the Superfund Site since December.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt on Thursday announced the proposed partial remedy which would remove the waste carried over from the Manhattan Project. The proposition will carry an additional period of public comment before final implementation. During that time, community members will have opportunities to pose questions, concerns and wishes to the EPA.

Republic Services Inc., one of the potentially responsible parties, said in a statement it is "pleased that the EPA has finally ended decades of study and again is issuing a proposed plan for the site." "From here, we will participate fully during the EPA's comment period, as well as engage vigorously with the EPA and the other PRPs to ensure that the final remedy performed is based on science, and is fully protective of human health, including onsite workers performing any remedy, the community, and the environment," the company said. "The path to beginning implementation of the final Record of Decision (ROD) could take years."

The other potentially responsible parties are the U.S. Department of Energy and Exelon Corp. Missouri Coalition for the Environment issued a response, saying in part, "Partial removal is not acceptable. It means high levels of radioactivity will be left behind with the potential for water or airborne contamination into the future, creating unnecessary long-term risks to the St. Louis region." Ed Smith, Policy Director with MCE added, "People throughout St. Louis need to rise up and flood the EPA with public comments for full removal and offsite disposal unless they want to continue living alongside this radioactive threat."

The West Lake Landfill was first classified as a Superfund Site in 1990.

The EPA said in May that it found no radioactive waste in homes sampled in the Spanish Village neighborhood of Bridgeton. Republic Services Inc.'s West Lake Landfill is nearby.

EPA's Scott Pruitt proposes plan to remove radioactive waste at notorious West Lake Superfund site

Author: Josh Siegel

Published: 10:00 AM EST February 1, 2018

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/epas-scott-pruitt-proposes-plan-to-remove-radioactive-waste-at-notorious-west-lake-superfund-site/article/2647789>

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt announced Thursday a proposed plan to partially excavate radioactive waste at a notorious Superfund site northwest of St. Louis, Mo.

Pruitt proposes to remove the majority of radioactive material at the West Lake landfill within five years. The EPA also plans to place a permanent cap, or cover system, over the site for long-term protection. The EPA expects the plan to cost \$236 million over five years.

EPA's decision will be subject to the public comment process before being finalized.

"The people of the St. Louis region deserve clarity and answers with respect to the remediation of the West Lake Landfill," Pruitt said. "I promised them an answer, and today I am making good on that commitment. This decision demonstrates my vision for the Superfund program. Through leadership and responsiveness to communities, we will make decisions that protect public health, comply with the law, and hold potentially responsible parties accountable."

The West Lake landfill is one of the most high-profile Superfund sites in the country, staying on the National Priorities List since 1990.

The National Priorities List includes more than 1,300 locations that most urgently need cleanup of toxic chemicals.

West Lake made the list for containing thousands of tons of radioactive waste from the development of nuclear weapons during the World War II-era Manhattan Project.

Residents and local activists have pushed the EPA for full excavation and removal of radioactive waste at the site.

One local environmental group said Thursday that Pruitt's proposed action is not sufficient. "Partial removal is not acceptable," said the Missouri Coalition for the Environment. "It means high levels of radioactivity will be left behind with the potential for water or airborne contamination into the future, creating unnecessary long-term risks to the St. Louis region."

The landfill operators, Republic Services and Exelon Corp., meanwhile, prefer the less costly "capping" method, rather than excavation. Pruitt's proposed plan falls in the middle of those two options.

Speeding up the cleanup of Superfund sites has been one of Pruitt's main goals. He has said he is cleaning up hazardous sites faster than his predecessors, recently announcing the EPA had removed all or parts of seven Superfund sites from the National Priorities List, meaning no further cleanup is needed at them.

But the EPA in previous years achieved similar or higher cleanup records. The EPA removed seven sites from the priority list in 2015, 15 sites in 2014 and 12 sites in 2013.

EPA: Plans to partially remove toxic waste from West Lake Landfill in place
The West Lake Landfill was first classified as a Superfund Site in 1990.

Author: Joel Hulsey

Published: 8:24 AM CST February 1, 2018

<http://www.ksdk.com/article/news/local/epa-plans-to-partially-remove-toxic-waste-from-west-lake-landfill-in-place/63-513500262>

BRIDGETON, Mo. — The EPA announced a final remedy to partially remove toxic waste from the West Lake Landfill, a move community members have been expecting for the Superfund Site since December.

Thursday, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt announced the proposed partial remedy which would remove the waste carried over from the Manhattan Project. The proposition will carry an additional period of public comment before final implantation. During that time, community members will have opportunities to provide questions, concerns, and wishes to the EPA.

"Our goals, along with relocating the residents, have always been getting the radioactive waste out of the Missouri River floodplain and away from the threat of the underground fire," said non-profit group Just Moms STL in a statement.

The non-profit added they have already begun mobilizing to reject the EPA's latest remedy. "We [the community] have been waiting over a quarter of a century for a safe and permanent solution to the radioactive waste at the landfill," said co-founder Karen Nickel in a statement. "A remedy at this site was long overdue. However, partial removal is neither safe nor permanent, and there is no mention of relocation of vulnerable families with children. One thing is certain, relocation options must happen before the first shovel of dirt is removed."

Missouri Coalition for the Environment issued a response, saying in part, "Partial removal is not acceptable. It means high levels of radioactivity will be left behind with the potential for water or airborne contamination into the future, creating unnecessary long-term risks to the St. Louis region." Ed Smith, Policy Director with MCE added, "People throughout St. Louis need to rise up and flood the EPA with public comments for full removal and offsite disposal unless they want to continue living alongside this radioactive threat."

The West Lake Landfill was first classified as a Superfund Site in 1990.

<http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2018/02/01/epa-to-issue-decision-on-west-lake-landfill/>
February 1, 2018 at 7:41 am

ST. LOUIS (KMOX) – Looks like today will be the day the federal EPA formally announces plans for the West Lake landfill.

Dawn Chapman of the environmental watchdog group "Just Moms STL" posted on social media that the EPA confirms it will announce a decision on cleanup at the landfill, something her group has been advocating since about 2013.

The Post-Dispatch reports the EPA will pursue a "partial excavation" of waste linked to the Manhattan Project.

It cites information from EPA director Scott Pruitt and calls the decision somewhere between what most-vocal community members wanted and what industrial interests are.

The five-year project is anticipated to include an engineered cover system for longterm protection.

Report: EPA plans to partially extract radioactive material at West Lake Landfill

POSTED 7:33 AM, FEBRUARY 1, 2018,

<http://fox2now.com/2018/02/01/report-epa-plans-to-partially-extract-radioactive-material-at-west-lake-landfill/>

BRIDGETON, MO – The EPA has announced that it wants to pursue partial excavation as its strategy to remediate the West Lake Landfill Superfund site. The landfill is home to waste linked to the Manhattan project.

The proposed remedy, called “excavation plus,” is expected to take five years to implement. The measure will remove the majority of radioactive contamination while installing an engineered cover system for long-term protection. The proposal will now be subject to a period of public comment before any decision is finalized.

Message

From: Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/2/2018 2:54:44 PM
To: Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]
CC: Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]; Beach, Christopher [beach.christopher@epa.gov]; Daniell, Kelsi [daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]; Block, Molly [block.molly@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: DRAFT TWEET NYTimes

Thx

Lincoln Ferguson
Senior Advisor to the Administrator

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

On Feb 2, 2018, at 9:41 AM, Bowman, Liz <Bowman.Liz@epa.gov> wrote:

Updated: Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Message

From: Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/2/2018 2:39:32 PM
To: Ferguson, Lincoln [ferguson.lincoln@epa.gov]
CC: Bowman, Liz [Bowman.Liz@epa.gov]; Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]; Konkus, John [konkus.john@epa.gov]; Beach, Christopher [beach.christopher@epa.gov]; Daniell, Kelsi [daniell.kelsi@epa.gov]; Block, Molly [block.molly@epa.gov]
Subject: DRAFT TWEET NYTimes

@EPAScottPruitt

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/5/2018 9:03:06 PM
To: Timothy Cama [tcama@thehill.com]; Press [Press@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: May Nursery

Tim, why did you delete all of your tweets this summer?

Here's our on-the-record statement: **"May Nursery does not grow medicinal marijuana, nor did Administrator Pruitt visit a nursery site that grows medicinal marijuana."** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

From: Timothy Cama [mailto:tcama@thehill.com]
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 3:41 PM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: May Nursery

Hey folks-

It looks like you deleted the tweet from Pruitt's account mentioning that he visited May Nursery on Friday. It also looks like May Nursery grows medical marijuana: <http://www.miaminewtimes.com/news/meet-floridas-medical-marijuana-moguls-9625984>

Why did the tweet get deleted? Is it because of the marijuana? **No**. Did Pruitt or EPA know before he went that they grow marijuana? **N/A**. And is this at all at odds with the Trump administration's policy that medical marijuana is illegal? **N/A**.

Thanks.

--

Timothy Cama, Staff writer
The Hill

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Secure: timothy.cama@protonmail.com

Message

From: Timothy Cama [tcama@thehill.com]
Sent: 2/5/2018 8:40:41 PM
To: Press [Press@epa.gov]
Subject: May Nursery

Hey folks-

It looks like you deleted the tweet from Pruitt's account mentioning that he visited May Nursery on Friday. It also looks like May Nursery grows medical marijuana: <http://www.miaminewtimes.com/news/meet-floridas-medical-marijuana-moguls-9625984>

Why did the tweet get deleted? Is it because of the marijuana? Did Pruitt or EPA know before he went that they grow marijuana? And is this at all at odds with the Trump administration's policy that medical marijuana is illegal?

Thanks.

--

Timothy Cama, Staff writer
The Hill

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Secure: timothy.cama@protonmail.com

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/5/2018 6:54:06 PM
To: Press [Press@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Pruitt Florida visit?

Will handle.

From: Emily Holden [mailto:eholden@politico.com]
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 1:53 PM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Pruitt Florida visit?

Hi—concerning the visit with farmers and others in Florida, is the May Nursery in your [press release](#) the same one referenced in this story as growing marijuana? <http://www.miaminewtimes.com/news/meet-floridas-medical-marijuana-moguls-9625984> Both seem to be just north of Tallahassee.

And is there a reason a tweet from the event is no longer appearing on Pruitt's account?

<https://web.archive.org/web/20180202150741/https://twitter.com/EPAScottPruitt/status/959437350408474624>

Thanks,
Emily

Emily Holden
Reporter, energy/climate
POLITICO
eholden@politico.com

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

[@emilyhholden](#)

Message

From: Hassell, Emily [hassell.emily@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/6/2018 7:18:29 PM
To: Press [Press@epa.gov]
Subject: White House Report: Daily Wrap and Top Stories, 6 February 2018

Daily Wrap

HQ

Big Apple Parent (Emma Steven) - Reducing chemical exposure in the home.
BNA (Sylvia Carignan) - Superfund sites with PFAS contamination.
Chemical & Engineering News (Sam Lemonick) - Opinion on article linking permafrost and mercury.
Consumer Reports (Dan Wroclawski) - Coffee pod recyclability.
CQ Roll Call (Jackie Toth) - Timothy Epp's EPA titles.
Dumpsters.com (Juliana Lytkowski) - Landfill gas-to-energy.
E&E News (Kevin Bogardus) - Patrick Davis and vacant OLEM position.
E&E News (Sean Reilly); The Hill (Miranda Green) - Comment on Senator Carper's letter to EPA.
Good Housekeeping (Clare Ellis) - Radon fact-check.
Harper's Magazine (Whitney Kimball) - Disaster preparedness fact-check.
Heartland Institute (Matt Kelly) - EPA reversal on Pebble Mine.
The Hill (Timothy Cama) - Administrator Pruitt's deleted tweet about May Nursery.
InsideEPA (Dawn Reeves) - Interview request for Andrew Wheeler.
Law360 (Michael Phillis) - Comment on Blue Water Baltimore versus Administrator Pruitt.
The National Law Journal (Cogan Schneier); National Journal (Brian Dabbs) - WOTUS litigation response.
Politico (Annie Snider) - DOJ policy on guidance and enforcement.
Top Ten Reviews (Rebecca Spear) - Pesticides.
Wall Street Journal (Sharon Nunn) - Sugarcane aphids on sorghum plants.

Region 4

Action News Jax in Jacksonville (Fla.) (Varisa Lall Dass) – Sunken boats in Hyde Park.

Top Stories

<http://mynews4.com/news/local/exclusive-head-of-epa-scott-pruitt-sits-down-for-in-studio-interview>

EXCLUSIVE: Head of EPA Scott Pruitt to tour several northern Nevada mining sites

http://elkodaily.com/mining/epa-administrator-visits-nevada-silver-gold-mine/article_ac470e58-6963-5ec6-8222-90d5bec0929f.html

EPA administrator visits Nevada silver-gold mine

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/pruitt-asks-cabinet-to-help-him-with-war-on-lead-in-drinking-water/article/2648158>

Pruitt asks Cabinet to help him with 'war on lead' in drinking water

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/372418-epa-jumpstarts-war-on-lead-with-executive-task-force>

EPA to jumpstart 'war on lead' with strategy meeting

<https://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1060072963/search?keyword=EPA>

Pruitt visited Fla. nursery with links to cannabis industry

<http://www.cnn.com/2018/02/05/politics/kfile-scott-pruitt-trump-rule-of-law/index.html>

Scott Pruitt called Trump an 'empty vessel' on 'the Constitution and rule of law' in another 2016 interview

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/scott-pruitt-called-trump-an-empty-vessel-on-the-constitution-in-2016-interview/article/2648157>

Scott Pruitt called Trump an 'empty vessel' on the Constitution in 2016 interview

<https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/stories/1060072929/search?keyword=EPA>

Trump 'empty vessel' on Constitution — Pruitt in 2016

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/372371-epa-chief-once-called-trump-an-empty-vessel-in-interview>

EPA chief once called Trump an 'empty vessel' in interview

<https://www.eenews.net/energywire/stories/1060072949/search?keyword=EPA>

The development deal that led to Pruitt adviser's banking ban

<https://insideepa.com/daily-news/new-doj-bar-guidance-enforcement-could-curb-swath-epa-actions>

New DOJ Bar On Guidance Enforcement Could Curb Swath Of EPA Actions

<https://www.politicopro.com/agriculture/whiteboard/2018/02/state-ags-file-first-legal-challenge-to-wotus-delay-555139>

State AGs file first legal challenge to WOTUS delay

<https://www.politico.com/newsletters/morning-energy/2018/02/06/let-it-rain-wotus-cases-094019>

Let it rain (WOTUS cases)

<https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060073013/search?keyword=EPA>

Sentencing case may set course for Clean Water Act battles

<https://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1060072933/search?keyword=EPA>

Trump would back pro-business climate treaty — aide

<https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060072989/search?keyword=EPA>

Trump campaign aide lands at Denver office

<https://www.eenews.net/eedaily/stories/1060072945/search?keyword=EPA>

Hartnett White exit spurs hope of easier approval of nominees

<https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060073019/search?keyword=EPA>

Who's who on the Transformation Steering Committee

<https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060073031/search?keyword=EPA>

Greens, refiner find common ground in RFS fight

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/rex-tillerson-in-the-crosshairs-of-green-groups-court-threats/article/2648134>

Rex Tillerson in the crosshairs of green group's court threats

<https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/stories/1060072927/search?keyword=EPA>

D.C. Circuit sets arguments in fight over the scope of rulings

<http://www.newstimes.com/opinion/article/Presentation-on-N-Y-power-plant-reveals-concerns-12553263.php>

Presentation on N.Y. power plant reveals concerns

<https://www.politicopro.com/energy/article/2018/02/grassley-releases-analysis-to-argue-biofuel-credits-not-to-blame-for-pes-bankruptcy-552584>

Grassley releases analysis to argue biofuel credits not to blame for PES bankruptcy

Message

From: Emily Holden [eholden@politico.com]
Sent: 2/5/2018 7:13:38 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Pruitt Florida visit?

I don't see a hat?

<https://web.archive.org/web/20180202150741/https://twitter.com/EPAScottPruitt/status/959437350408474624>

Emily Holden
Reporter, energy/climate

POLITICO

eholden@politico.com

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

@emilyhholden

From: Wilcox, Jahan [mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 2:08 PM
To: Emily Holden <eholden@politico.com>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Pruitt Florida visit?

“May Nursery does not grow medicinal marijuana, nor did Administrator Pruitt visit a nursery site that grows medicinal marijuana.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

From: Emily Holden [mailto:eholden@politico.com]
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 1:53 PM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Pruitt Florida visit?

Hi—concerning the visit with farmers and others in Florida, is the May Nursery in your [press release](#) the same one referenced in this story as growing marijuana? <http://www.miaminewtimes.com/news/meet-floridas-medical-marijuana-moguls-9625984> Both seem to be just north of Tallahassee.

And is there a reason a tweet from the event is no longer appearing on Pruitt's account?

<https://web.archive.org/web/20180202150741/https://twitter.com/EPAScottPruitt/status/959437350408474624>

Thanks,
Emily

Emily Holden
Reporter, energy/climate

POLITICO

eholden@politico.com

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

@emilyhholden

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 2/5/2018 7:07:37 PM
To: Niina Heikkinen [nheikkinen@eenews.net]
CC: Press [Press@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Pruitt's Florida trip and marijuana

“May Nursery does not grow medicinal marijuana, nor did Administrator Pruitt visit a nursery site that grows medicinal marijuana.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

From: Niina Heikkinen [mailto:nheikkinen@eenews.net]
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 1:56 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan <wilcox.jahan@epa.gov>
Subject: Pruitt's Florida trip and marijuana

Hi Jahan,

I saw your press release that Administrator Pruitt visited May Nursery on Friday. I'm sure others have asked you this but May Nursery is licensed to grow medical marijuana. Was this something the administrator knew about ahead of his visit? Does he have a position on the legalization of marijuana for either medical or recreational use? According to Nick Surgey of Documented, he deleted a photo of him with the May family on Twitter after Surgey mentioned the connection.

Thanks for your help.

Best,

Niina Heikkinen
E&E News reporter

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

@nhheikkinen
Skype: niina.h.heikkinen

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Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 2/5/2018 7:11:53 PM
To: Richard@maynursery.com
CC: Bennett, Tate [Bennett.Tate@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Pruitt Florida visit?

FYI –

From: Wilcox, Jahan
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 2:08 PM
To: 'Emily Holden' <eholden@politico.com>
Cc: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Pruitt Florida visit?

“May Nursery does not grow medicinal marijuana, nor did Administrator Pruitt visit a nursery site that grows medicinal marijuana.” – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

From: Emily Holden [mailto:eholden@politico.com]
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 1:53 PM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Pruitt Florida visit?

Hi—concerning the visit with farmers and others in Florida, is the May Nursery in your [press release](#) the same one referenced in this story as growing marijuana? <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/meet-floridas-medical-marijuana-moguls-9625984> Both seem to be just north of Tallahassee.

And is there a reason a tweet from the event is no longer appearing on Pruitt’s account?

<https://web.archive.org/web/20180202150741/https://twitter.com/EPAScottPruitt/status/959437350408474624>

Thanks,
Emily

Emily Holden
Reporter, energy/climate

POLITICO

eholden@politico.com

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

[@emilyhholden](#)

Message

From: Wilcox, Jahan [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=88FD588E97D3405D869BCAE98D391984-WILCOX, JAH]
Sent: 2/5/2018 9:03:05 PM
To: Timothy Cama [tcama@thehill.com]; Press [Press@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: May Nursery

Tim, why did you delete all of your tweets this summer?

Here's our on-the-record statement: **"May Nursery does not grow medicinal marijuana, nor did Administrator Pruitt visit a nursery site that grows medicinal marijuana."** – EPA spokesman, Jahan Wilcox

From: Timothy Cama [mailto:tcama@thehill.com]
Sent: Monday, February 5, 2018 3:41 PM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: May Nursery

Hey folks-

It looks like you deleted the tweet from Pruitt's account mentioning that he visited May Nursery on Friday. It also looks like May Nursery grows medical marijuana: <http://www.miaminewtimes.com/news/meet-floridas-medical-marijuana-moguls-9625984>

Why did the tweet get deleted? Is it because of the marijuana? **No**. Did Pruitt or EPA know before he went that they grow marijuana? **N/A**. And is this at all at odds with the Trump administration's policy that medical marijuana is illegal? **N/A**.

Thanks.

--

Timothy Cama, Staff writer
The Hill

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Secure: timothy.cama@protonmail.com

Message

From: Abboud, Michael [abboud.michael@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/2/2018 5:35:26 PM
To: Wilcox, Jahan [wilcox.jahan@epa.gov]
Subject: NASDA

This tweet is good

<https://twitter.com/NASDAnews/status/958779481971417088>

<https://twitter.com/NASDAnews/status/958775026609737730>

Some other ones that might work.

<https://twitter.com/KYAgCommish/status/958780419092242434>

<https://twitter.com/EPAScottPruitt/status/958802261815197696>

<https://twitter.com/NASDAnews/status/958791347036721153>

<https://twitter.com/agripulse/status/958784008858587137>

<https://twitter.com/BNorthey/status/958775603565645824>

Story

<https://www.thefencepost.com/news/epa-interior-commerce-to-cooperate-on-fifra-esa/>